Kop in Munich | Simon Mignolet | Farewell Lucas | Jerzy Dudek | Andrew Robertson | New third kit

LIVERPOOL FC



Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine liverpoolfc.com

JÜRGEN KLOPP
The first 99 games

ANFIELD 2017/18
Your need-to-know guide

DOMINIC SOLANKE
"He's going to excite a lot of people"

JORDAN HENDERSON RALLIES THE TROOPS FOR 2017/18

RED ALERT





BETVICTOR



ISSUE 061

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Shout-out to the Irish Kop for their massive support in Dublin – now let's raise the roof at Anfield for season 2017/18

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FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current stars, the stats that matter plus blasts from the past

CLUB

Reaching out to communities at home and abroad, plus Anfield updates and the latest awesome official merchandise



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THIS IS DUBLIN Once again a Liverpool FC pre-season friendly away from Anfield felt like a home game – and this time it was Ireland's red legions who did the club proud before Jürgen Klopp's side beat Athletic Bilbao 3-1 in Dublin's Aviva Stadium in front of over 50,000 fans. Roberto Firmino, with a



penalty, Ben Woodburn and Dominic Solanke were on target against the Basque team in our eighth and final summer fixture.



The boss takes a quick selfie in Dublin – but what was the name of the man in charge of opponents Athletic Bilbao at the Aviva Stadium? **Answer on page 98**

Summer highlights and the exciting start of the new LFC season

LIVERPOOL



HOME SWEET HOME The new season has brought further transformation for Anfield. More than 70 construction projects took place in and around the ground in the close-season and work on accessibility improvements are nearing completion, making Anfield even more welcoming for



supporters. LFC's operations director Andrew Parkinson says: "These projects further demonstrate the commitment from our ownership to invest in Anfield. We will now comply with the Accessible Stadia Guide for the number of wheelchair spaces and amenity seating around the stadium."

SCOUSE BRAUS

Chris McLoughlin goes on tour with the travelling Kop to see the Reds in Audi Cup action



LFC and Atleti line up in the Allianz Arena

Boss tha... Jürgen in the Marienplatz

Chris Mac in Munich's Olympiastadion

Has there ever been a more recognisable roof on a stadium?

München. Wednesday evening. About a quarter-to-midnight. It's an hour or so after Liverpool FC have been beaten by Atletico Madrid on penalties in the Audi Cup final and a few stragglers are leaving the Allianz Arena.

As the luminous exterior of Bayern Munich's home beams out red and white lights, piercing the darkness that has descended upon the city's Frottmanning Heath district, the sound of singing drifts across the night air from the Paulaner beer garden situated in the shadows of the 75,000-capacity stadium: "We are Liverpool, tra la la la la, we're the best football team in the land – yes we are!"

The Liverpool boys are in town.

Some travelling Kopites arrived in Germany before the weekend, taking in the Reds' 3-0 win against Hertha



Audi, partners. Simeone, Ancelotti, Klopp and Sarri

Hut, Schal oder ein Abzeichen



Hendo did well to get all this in his hand-luggage


"So have you ever been to Germany before…"

Rail seating and the scoreboard in Bayern's former home

in Berlin's Olympic Stadium on the Saturday before making the 500km trip from the East to Bavaria for the Audi Cup double-header. It's fair to say they make themselves seen and heard.

Kilians Irish Pub on Frauenplatz, a basement bar a minute's walk from München's Marienplatz – the city's central square and home of the strikingly impressive Neues Rathaus – is a meeting-point for many Reds.

With rows of tables and chairs lined up outside, and giant umbrellas protecting patrons from the 37-degree heat on matchday one, it's a hive of activity for three days as Liverpool lovers from all over the place congregate to sing about their heroes and drape banners wherever they can. Cold glasses of the local brau, Augustiner, keep throats well-oiled.

I arrive in Munich on the Monday night and spend a couple of hours in Kilians where I get chatting to a Hoffenheim fan – who says his team should not be underestimated if paired with Liverpool in the Champions League (gulp!) – and a Sparta Rotterdam supporter who claims he played against Gini Wijnaldum as a youth-team player in Dutch football and has a family link to Manchester United. Blagger or not, his ID card contains the surname 'Van der Sar'. I'd have been more impressed had it said 'Kuyt'.

Crossing the paths of fellow football followers you would never normally encounter has always been an attraction of following Redmen across Europe and with Liverpool having not played in Munich since July 1987 – when John Barnes scored a debut goal but Kenny Dalglish's side



lost 3-2 to Bayern in a testimonial for Dieter Hoeness – this is a new city for many travelling Kopites to visit. The prospect of two matches in one of Europe's most iconic football stadiums has clearly dangled a seductive leg out on the pre-season schedule judging by the number of Reds here and with thousands of Bayern fans also wearing their colours across the city and a sports shop displaying both team's shirts on mannequins in the doorway, one thing is definite. Munich is red.

Bayern moved to the Allianz Arena in 2005 having played at the Olympiastadion since 1972, a ground that remains highly significant in LFC's glorious European history. It was there, in the 1981 European Cup semi-final second leg, where teenage substitute Howard Gayle, on for the injured Kenny Dalglish, ran the hosts ragged before captain-for-the-night Ray Kennedy scored late on to send Bob Paisley's men to Paris on away-goals. Maybe that's why they called another Irish bar in Munich city-centre 'Kennedy's'?

Sunken into the ground and built for the 1972 Summer Olympic Games, the Olympiastadion remains in use. Rhianna is due to play there – she'll appreciate the iconic umbrella-ella-style roof more than most – and for €3.50 you can wander around it.

As I do so on the Tuesday morning, unsuccessfully trying to dodge scores of spiders' webs that span much of the rail-seating, it is impossible not to gaze at where the pitch used to be and imagine Kennedy striking the ball home in 81 or Marco van Basten's stunning volley for Holland in the Euro 88 final against Russia. Such moments give stadiums an aura. The Olympiastadion still has one.

Next up is an U-Bahn trip to Grunwalder Strasse, a stadium Liverpool have played three times in, against TSV 1860 Munich in 1967 and twice against Bayern Munich in 1971. Home again to 1860 Munich, it only holds 12,500 people and with stewards going to great lengths to stop anybody photographing a behind-closed-doors friendly against 1. FC Nurnberg, trying to peek in beyond the temporary blue tarpaulin is difficult. In any case, all Strasses lead to the Allianz Arena tonight where the Reds are taking on Bayern Munich following the Audi Cup opener between Atletico Madrid and Napoli.

Munich is red

A fine time to have eine stein or zwei

Wouldn't fancy being in the seat behind him

Situated next to an autobahn on the northern outskirts of Munich, the Allianz Arena looks like a giant airship that has landed on a hill in the middle of nowhere. Neighbouring a giant sewage treatment plant – making the views on the 10-minute walk-up from Frottmanning U-Bahn station quite literally Scheisse – it's the type of location you'd dread your club moving to, yet the unusual foil-air panelling on the exterior and the sheer size of it gives the Allianz an alluring quality.

Security is strict. Electronic turnstiles stand a couple of hundred yards in front of the Allianz and the couple of patting-downs I get are thorough, but when inside I can't help but be impressed.

With three tiers designed in a bowl shape and seats far closer to the pitch than in their previous home, the Allianz has a touch of Wembley, a bit of The Emirates and a sense of the Principality Stadium about it. It also has thousands of Liverpool fans spread throughout and they've brought their calling cards.

'We Are Liverpool' reads one banner. 'Liverpool FC Kingfisher Kirkby' states another. 'Liverpool Supporters East' written above a German flag is also on display while the pre-match playing of *You'll Never Walk Alone* is a classy touch by the hosts.

It is swiftly followed by the FC Bayern anthem and as kick-off approaches the atmosphere is crackling like it's a big European night rather than a pre-season friendly, although not as much as the electrical storm is crackling in the sky. Boom! As the Liverpool manager once said.

Rumbles of thunder followed by flashes of bolt lightning draw oohs and aahs from the crowd, but after the game kicks off in a steamy downpour it is Klopp's side, wearing their new white and green quartered away strip for the first time, that have the travelling Kop purring.





Walking on up to the Allianz Arena

Klopp and his coaches survey the action

Travelling Kopites take over Kilians Irish Pub

Oh Mane, Mane. Sadio scores against Bayern

Red and white lights, hello, hello...

Grunwalder Strasse, home of TVS 1860 Munich

2-0! Mo Salah heads home LFC's second

Jürgen hasn't quite got the Mexican wave mastered

They're not just quick, they score goals too

Daniel Sturridge's sublime lob completes a superb 3-0 win

Sadio Mane. 1-0. Seven minutes on the clock and through he goes to convert Roberto Firmino's pass.

Mo Salah. 2-0. Thirty-four minutes on the clock and he heads home after Alberto Moreno's cross-shot, teed up by an outrageous piece of skill and pass from Mane, is parried into his direction.

Liverpool are in charge – some Reds give every pass the 'Oles' early in the second half – and although a third goal is disallowed for offside against Adam Lallana following a brilliant run by Ryan Kent and a Marko Grujic shot, Daniel Sturridge completes the scoring with an exquisite lob from Ben Woodburn's pass only to injure himself in the process of scoring.

Even so, to beat Bayern 3-0 in their own hintergarten takes some doing and it is *YNWA* ringing around the Allianz at full-time with many home fans leaving early, resigned to a first ever Audi Cup semi-final defeat since the biannual tournament was inaugurated in 2009.

The queues for Frottmanning U-Bahn station afterwards have to be seen to be believed, but as fans of both clubs pack onto the trains the banter is friendly. Squeezed tightly into a carriage with the sweat dripping off them, a group of teenage Bayern fans Facetime and Snapchat themselves singing about Steven Gerrard's infamous slip in perfect English in response to a couple of Irish Reds who'd pointed out the final score. Their chants of 'Tiki-taka, tiki-taka, oi, oi, oi' seem a little odd, however, given their team has just been walloped.

Speaking of Espana, Atleti and Fernando Torres now await in the Audi Cup final tomorrow after their 2-1 victory against Napoli. The fact that the Torres song is later heard ringing out in Kilians is a reminder of the popularity El Nino has regained.

As you can probably imagine, Kopites make the most of another day in Munich with St Peter's Church, the Oktoberfest Bier Museum, Olympic Tower, BMW Museum and Dachau Concentration Camp



The Audi Cup: nicely polished, now in Madrid



Pennant back in the LFC dressing room



High-fives from Kloppo



Three more and we've got a team there

LFC and Atleti head out for the Audi Cup final

Which team am I trying to score for again?

Danny Ward can't believe Atleti have scored after his magnificent save onto the bar

Adam Lallana gets a pass away under pressure

Memorial Site among the tourist attractions visited by some ahead of a swift stein or zwei before the 20-minute train trip back to the Allianz.

Inside, after Napoli clinch third place with a surprise 2-0 win against Bayern, a pre-match video story of LFC's 125-year history is played on the giant screens before an opening ceremony of epic proportions gets things underway.

The Audi Cup – which looks like the UEFA Cup after an extreme diet – is placed pitchside on a podium where it is guarded by a white-glove cladded lady who spends part of the second half polishing it. That's what you call seasonal work.

Liverpool are back in red tonight and as the game kicks off Klopp, wearing a grey training top and shorts, and Atleti coach Diego Simeone, sporting jeans and a tight white shirt complete with increasingly large sweat patch, patrol the touchline and bark out orders. They're certainly taking it seriously, but in truth the match is something of an anti-climax.

Two much-changed sides fight out a 1-1 draw, Firmino equalising from the penalty spot to send the final to a shoot-out following Keidi Bare's first-half opener with few other real chances of note.

Reds skipper Jordan Henderson is the only player to miss during the spot-kick shoot-out – in which Torres nets his first-ever goal against LFC – and so it is Atletico, rather than Liverpool, who are handed the Audi Cup, the presentation marked by streamers being fired into the air only to become entangled on the zip-wire that the over-pitch camera slides along upon.

It would've been nice to see Liverpool lift another trophy in addition to the Asia Cup, but the abiding memory of the 2017 Audi Cup will remain the pace, power, pressing and precision finishing that oozed from Klopp's Liverpool team as they beat Bayern Munich 3-0.

Hoffenheim may look like tricky Champions League qualifier opponents for the Reds, but imagine what they're thinking in Germany after seeing that?



Shoot-out selection



And you thought the queues at Lime St station were bad



Bobby Firmino equalises from the penalty-spot


L.FC
THE
RED ACES

KING OF THE KOP

Ben Hendry was there when it all began – on the Kop, not the pitch – and he'll be missed

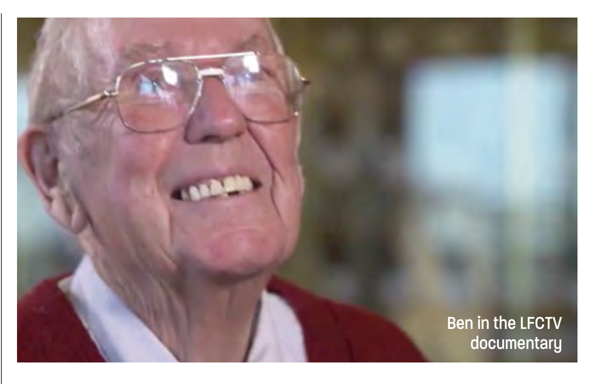
There was a poignant Tweet posted by the club towards the end of July: "#LFC are saddened to learn of the passing of Reds fan Ben Hendry – affectionately known as the original 'King of the Kop.'"

Ben, one of the old-school Kopites credited with giving Anfield songs to learn and sing in the 1960s, appears in a beautifully-filmed LFCTV documentary in which he recalls how "we got nicknamed the 'Kop Choir': there was myself and the three Lloyd brothers. We'd start the singsong and they gradually started picking up at the back of us and joining in. After a while it started to expand, and away it went. It was a wonderful atmosphere, it really was."

The documentary *Liverpool's Sound* features original footage from the Shankly era, with a younger Ben on film revealing: "Sometimes I can make myself go to sleep at night thinking of the roar of the Kop and fancying myself thundering down the wing with me stomach hanging over me shorts and scoring that vital goal!" He's also shown onboard a flight to an early European game with his guitar.

Ben was name-checked in the 1999 book *Faith of our Fathers: Football as a Religion*, by Alan Edge: "The Kop in the early Sixties held 28,000 frustrated pop singers under one roof. As the tannoy system used to bellow out the latest songs of Cilla and Gerry, the Beatles and the Searchers, we all joined in singing in the best Liverpool Saturday-night pub-and-party tradition – loud and passionate and not necessarily in tune, yet always in perfect harmony specially for Gerry's anthem.


In fine voice back in the day


Ben in the LFCTV documentary

"Then some Kopites – rumoured to be either Ben Hendry and the Lloyd brothers from the Liver Pub in Waterloo, or a mysterious Kopite called Peter Daly – who wrote *I am A Liverpudlian* a few years later – made up the words to some of the songs and used the school playground skipping song *Ee Aye Addio* for others, except 'the farmer' was no longer 'in his den' but we were 'gonna win the league'. And then they mimicked the 'Bra-zil cha-cha-cha' chant from the 1962 World Cup but with 'Liv-er-pool' followed by hand-clapping instead. And that's how it all started..."

What a time that must have been. Everyone at the official Liverpool FC magazine passes on its condolences to Ben's family. YNWA.

JERZY BOYS LEARN FROM THE BEST

Dudek sets up soccer school in Krakow and hosts tournament won by Liverpool team



Jerzy Dudek may have hung up his gloves but he's still very much involved in football, playing in various charity games and now setting up his very own soccer school.

Entitled AS Progres, it's based in Jerzy's home country of Poland and is part of a project run by SIEMACHA, a non-profit association providing help and support for young people in education, therapy and physical development. Vice-chairman Maciej Malski says: "Our headquarters are in Krakow, but we work nationwide in 30 different locations with over 1,500 children participating in free daily classes."

Five years ago SIEMACHA established the AS Progres Sports Academy with Dudek as a patron, after the ex-Reds goalie was shown round an existing sports facility. It's since doubled its numbers of players – currently 600 within 18 teams including 15 boys' age-groups and three girls' age-groups – with 31 professional coaches, nine of whom hold a UEFA 'A' licence. "Jerzy is an active member," adds football director Lukasz Terlecko, "coaching our goalkeepers and providing a strong vision for the school."

Dudek himself explains: "Our name is a combination of Polish words: Progres (progress), Rozwoj (development), Odpowiedzialnosc (responsibility), Grupa (group), Rownowaga (balance), Edukacja (education) and Sukces (success).

"The main aim of AS Progres is to deliver the highest standard of coaching and to develop young players within the best possible sports facilities. With this in mind we launched an international youth football tournament and invited a Liverpool Schoolboys team which went on to win it.

"The tournament was a great advertisement for us as a soccer school and also a great opportunity for Polish Reds – with whom we're very close because the LFC fan base is big in Poland – to come and support young players from the city of their favourite team. In the end we all benefit from it.

"In turn Maciej and Lukasz visited a few football academies in England's North West as well as Jamie Carragher's Soccer School and returned with plenty of new ideas. Hopefully we'll be back in Liverpool soon for a similar event."

■ **Follow the official Polish LFC Twitter account @PolandLFC.**



The AS Progres complex

Words: Rado Chmiel



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REDS ON INSTAGRAM

The best recent posts as the Mighty Reds gear up for 2017/18

@luchogargia14 Best way to warm up for a game of golf!! #Australia #Melbourne



@dejanlovren06 👉👈💪



@jhenderson Great to be in the mix in Hong Kong 🇭🇰 .....where's Wally? 😂 #nike



@domsolanke Great end to pre season with a win and another goal 🙌 🔴 #DS29





@mosalah22 Botafoch 🔴🔴⚽





@momosissokoofficial Good memories, thanks guys 🙏👌 #juventus #liverpool #psg





@23_carra Always wanted to be in a band!



@hamann.didi Even in winter always worth a visit. Beautiful Melbourne





@linda_Pizzuti LFC vs Hertha at the Olympiastadion Berlin. Over 54k in attendance for this matchup between 125 year old clubs. I was caught filming the opening YNWA from the red section (on twitter). We presented the team with a special plaque to commemorate the match, and they presented Liverpool with a special 125 jersey and a banner. Great match with a clean sheet win #lfc #lfc125 #bsclfc #berlin #friendly #cleansheet 📷 @propagandaphoto



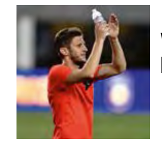
@ragnar.klavan17 Nice and hard training camp almost over. It was nice to be in beautiful Bavaria again ⚽ 😊





@svandesanden ❤️ 1️⃣ 🏆





@officiallallana And yes we were sat next to each other on the plane 😂 ✈️



@22mignolet22 Tour of Germany 🚴 😉

@liverpoolfc Boss selfie! ☐









POSTCARDS FROM HONG KONG

Football, fans, legends and laughter... The best shots from Liverpool FC's pre-season tour































PRE-SEASON PICS


























Standard
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Standard
Chartered

PRE-SEASON PICS

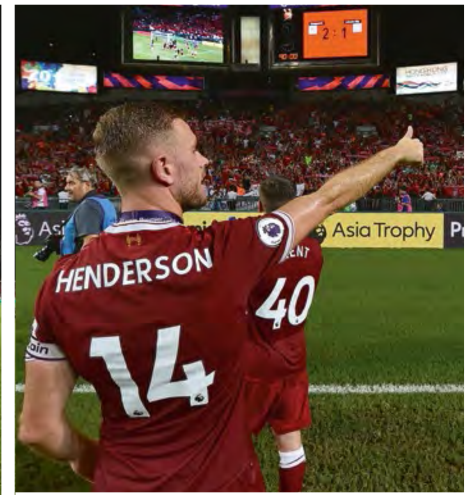




















WHAT'S



ON: AUG

HERE COME THE HOFF

We've got a Euro nights feature elsewhere in this issue to whet your appetite before Anfield welcomes Hoffenheim for the second leg of our UEFA Champions League qualifying play-off round, with a place in the tournament's group stages at stake.

Jürgen Klopp's side travelled to Germany for the first leg, having secured a spot in this round of the competition by finishing fourth in the Premier League last term, while Hoffenheim finished fourth in the Bundesliga. It promises to be another exciting Anfield occasion just a few days after LFC's first home game of the season, against Frank de Boer's Crystal Palace in the Premier League.



WHAT'S ON: AUG

LIVERPOOL'S SOUND ON LFCTV!



LFC's 125 celebrations, marking the club's first-ever fixtures in September 1892, will give Anfield's early games extra buzz, with all the fun captured on LFCTV. Soon after, the club's official TV channel will also premiere a brand new and exclusive documentary entitled *Liverpool's Sound – Kop Chants and their Origins.*

It's an hour-long journey through the history of LFC's unique and unrivalled songbook. The documentary begins at a time when Kopites were pioneering large-scale football chanting, transferring the sound of their beloved Merseybeat from the top of the charts to the Kop terraces.



The film explores how chants about star players became commonplace, rivalries were infused into song lyrics and European travel came to influence the Reds' growing repertoire. Classics like *Poor Scouser Tommy*, *Every Other Saturday*, *Fields of Anfield Road* and *Liverbird Upon My Chest* feature, while musician Jamie Webster puts his spin on the hits.

Liverpool's Sound is brought to life by a host of Kopites who sing them with pride, home and away, and among those fans featured are Dave Kirkby, Nicky Allt, Peter Hooton, Brian Reade, Jegsy Dodd, and the team from The Anfield Wrap and BOSS mag. Coming in October: don't miss it!

Anniversaries and birthdays



It's 40 years since the one and only Kenny Dalglish joined Liverpool FC from Celtic on 10 August 1977.

In May 1977 the Reds had won the European Cup for the first time but manager Bob Paisley had an immediate problem: replacing attacking talisman Kevin Keegan who'd announced he was leaving for German club Hamburg.

Celtic forward Kenny Dalglish was the name in the frame. Paisley had contacted Celtic boss Jock Stein a year earlier only to be told that Kenny was going nowhere – but also that Bob would be the first to know if things changed regarding Dalglish in the future.

Jock kept his promise. Successive Liverpool bids of £300,000, £330,000, £360,000 and £400,000 were rejected by the Glasgow giants but eventually LFC chairman John Smith sanctioned a deal with the Reds agreeing to pay a then-record transfer fee between two British clubs of £440,000. It proved of course to be an absolute steal.

Pepe Reina **35** on 31 August
Siobhan Chamberlain **34** on 15 Aug
Gerry Byrne **79** on 29 August
Alan Kennedy **63** on 31 August
Martha Harris **23** on 19 August
Steve McMahon **56** on 20 August
Didi Hamann **44** on 27 August
Bolo Zenden **41** on 15 August
Djibril Cisse **36** on 12 August
Taiwo Awoniyi **20** on 12 August



51 years since a Roger Hunt goal against Everton won the Charity Shield on 13 August 1966.
46 years since Kevin Keegan scored on his Liverpool FC debut on 14 August 1971.
13 years since Xabi Alonso and Luis Garcia joined on 20 Aug 2004.
56 years since Ian St John scored his first LFC goal on 30 Aug 1961.

FIXTURES 2017/18

AUGUST

Sat 12	Watford (A)
Tue 15	Hoffenheim (A) CL Play-off
Sat 19	**Crystal Palace** (H)
Tue 22/Wed 23	**Hoffenheim** (H) CL Play-off
Sun 27	**Arsenal** (H)

SEPTEMBER

Sat 9	Manchester City (A)
Tue 12/Wed 13	CL matchday 1
Sat 16	**Burnley** (H)
Tue 19/Wed 20	EFL Cup round 3
Sat 23	Leicester City (A)
Tue 26/Wed 27	CL matchday 2

OCTOBER

Sun 1	Newcastle United (A)
Sat 14	**Manchester United** (H)
Tue 17/Wed 18	CL matchday 3
Sat 21	Tottenham Hotspur (A)
Tue 24/Wed 25	EFL Cup round 4
Sat 28	**Huddersfield Town** (H)
Tue 31/Wed 01 Nov	CL matchday 4

NOVEMBER

Sat 4	West Ham United (A)
Sat 18	**Southampton** (H)
Tue 21/Wed 22	CL matchday 5
Sat 25	**Chelsea** (H)
Tue 28/Wed 29	EFL Cup round 5
Wed 29	Stoke City (A)

DECEMBER

Sat 2	Brighton (A)
Tue 5/Wed 6	CL matchday 6
Sat 9	**Everton** (H)
Wed 13	**West Brom** (H)
Sat 16	AFC Bournemouth (A)
Sat 23	Arsenal (A)
Tues 26	**Swansea City** (H)
Sat 30	**Leicester City** (H)

JANUARY

Mon 1	Burnley (A)
Sat 6/Sun 7	FA Cup 3rd round (TBC)
Tue 9/Wed 10	EFL Cup semi-final 1st leg
Sat 13	**Manchester City** (H)
Sat 20	Swansea City (A)
Tue 23/Wed 24	EFL Cup semi-final 2nd leg
Sat 27/Sun 28	FA Cup 4th round (TBC)
Tue 30	Huddersfield Town (A)

FEBRUARY

Sat 3	**Tottenham** (H)
Sat 10	Southampton (A)
Tue 13/Wed 14	CL last 16 1st leg
Sat 17/Sun 18	FA Cup 5th round (TBC)
Tue 20/Wed 21	CL last 16 1st leg
Sat 24	**West Ham United** (H)
Sun 25	EFL Cup final (4.30pm)

MARCH

Sat 3	**Newcastle United** (H)
Tue 6/Wed 7	CL last 16 2nd leg
Sat 10/Sun 11	FA Cup 6th round (TBC)
Sat 10	Manchester United (A)
Tue 13/Wed 14	CL last 16 2nd leg
Sat 17	**Watford** (H)
Sat 31	Crystal Palace (A)

APRIL

Tue 3/Wed 4	CL quarter-final 1st leg
Sat 7	Everton (A)
Tue 10/Wed 11	CL quarter-final 2nd leg
Sat 14	**AFC Bournemouth** (H)
Sat 21	West Brom (A)
Sat 21/Sun 22	FA Cup semi-final (TBC)
Tue 24/Wed 25	CL semi-final 1st leg
Sat 28	**Stoke City** (H)

MAY

Tue 1/Wed 2	CL semi-final 2nd leg
Sat 5	Chelsea (A)
Sun 13	**Brighton** (H)
Sat 19	FA Cup final (TBC)
Sat 26	CL final (Kiev)

*CL = Champions League


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The captain on the new season and Anfield's greatest Euro occasions

FOOTBALL

LIVERPOOL FC'S LATEST GREAT SCOT

Robertson signs in with what Jürgen Klopp calls "a burning love for playing football"

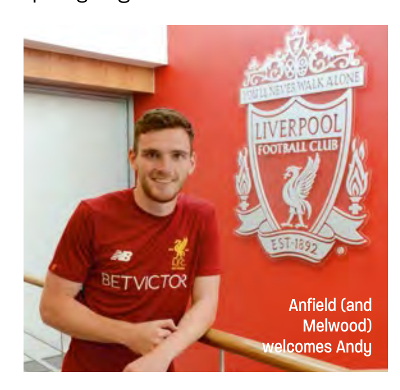
As Liverpool FC celebrates 125 years, it seems fitting to have a Scottish player in the first-team squad: the club's earliest successes relied upon recruiting talent from north of the border and a legendary 'Team of the Macs'.

In the summer of 2017 full-back Andrew Robertson became the Reds' third close-season signing when he completed his move from Hull City. The 23-year-old made his debut as a second-half substitute in the 3-0 friendly victory over Hertha Berlin and said afterwards: "Training has been intense [and now] it's good to get a game. It was good to come away with a win and a clean-sheet."

The Glaswegian has come a long way since being rejected by Celtic as a 15-year-old for being too small. That blow only inspired him and now, capped 15 times by his country, his path to Anfield comes via Queen's Park, Dundee United and Hull.

Andrew's arrival will add to the competition at left-back. Manager Jürgen Klopp says: "For him this is another big step on what has been a quite incredible personal journey in a very short space of time. I love his story; where he has come from professionally to reach this point.

"When you speak to him it is clear he has a burning love for playing football. His attitude is outstanding. His talent and skills also very good. He has experience of the Premier League and he has the mentality and quality to get even better."



Anfield (and Melwood) welcomes Andy

SHANICE IS OUR EUROPEAN CHAMPION!

Liverpool Ladies winger Shanice van de Sanden has become a sporting icon back home after she helped the Netherlands to Euro 2017 triumph earlier this month.

The 24-year-old scored the only goal of her country's opening game against Norway, then played her part in the knockout stages as the Dutch overcame Sweden (2-0) in the quarter-final, England (3-0) in the semi-final and Denmark (4-2) in the showpiece final in Enschede. Former Liverpool defender Mandy van den Berg lifted the trophy with team-mate Sherida Spitse in front of a delighted crowd of more than 28,000.

Shanice told this magazine last month: "If the performances are right, then I think the tournament can be really important for our country because then the women's football league will be of greater interest as well. That's what happened in England when they were third in the World Cup a couple of years ago, and hopefully we can achieve the same kind of result."

Reds keeper Siobhan Chamberlain featured in England's quarter-final win over France and the semi-final defeat to the Dutch, while team-mates Alex Greenwood and Casey Stoney were also part of the Lionesses squad.

Caroline Weir's Scotland were knocked out in the group stages despite her goal in a 1-0 win over Spain in their final fixture. It was her nation's first goal in a major finals. Caroline was also voted the official UEFA player of the match.



Shanice celebrates with team-mates



SO LONG LUCAS

Elsewhere in this issue of the magazine there's a special tribute to former Reds midfielder Lucas, who has left the club after ten years of superb service.

Just recently erstwhile Reds team-mate Roberto Firmino described him as "an excellent player and an excellent person too. I was a fan of his before I joined the club, and after I met him he became a close friend. It will be a friendship that I will treasure for the rest of my life."

Manager Jürgen Klopp had this to say about the Brazilian's departure: "Whenever a player leaves a club it is always a sad moment but even more so when the player is as popular and influential as Lucas. It goes without saying that all of the lads wish him the very best and from my own point-of-view I've got no doubt that he will be a success in Italy because he is one of the best professionals I have worked with.

"But even though he's not going to be at Liverpool anymore he is leaving a legacy behind. He set the standards of what it is to be a Liverpool player, and by doing that he gave all of us an example to follow and that will continue after he has gone."



NO MORE WINTER CUP OF NATIONS

Jürgen Klopp has welcomed news that the next Africa Cup of Nations will be held in June and July. The tournament has traditionally taken place in January and February, with European clubs having to release players accordingly. The changes for the 2019 event in Cameroon, to be contested by 24 teams instead of 16, have been rubber-stamped by the Confederation of African Football. On hearing the news Klopp said: "It's fantastic. When we signed Salah we thought: oh my God, we'll lose two [players] in wintertime. Now we won't."



MY MATE DOM

Ovie Ejaria, who first played football with Dominic Solanke when they were kids, reveals what the new signing will bring to LFC



LFC
Standard
29

Ovie Ejaria believes Dominic Solanke has all the tools to be a success at Liverpool FC. He should know – the pair first played together when they were just seven years old.

More recently, the talented duo were part of England's Under-20s World Cup-winning squad in South Korea this summer.

"I'm really pleased that Dom is a Liverpool player now," says midfielder Ejaria. "I first started playing with him when I was in the Under-Eights when we were at Chelsea together, so I've known him for a number of years now. I was pleased when he announced that he was coming to Liverpool because I know what a good player he is.

"Since those days when we were young, he's always been a prolific goalscorer and he gets his fair share of assists as well. He can hold the ball up and bring others into play and his movement in behind is very good as well, so he always gives himself a good chance of getting on the end of things.

"He won the Golden Ball at the Under-20s World Cup which was an unbelievable achievement. He played well throughout the tournament, so he fully deserved that accolade.

"Players like myself, Ben Woodburn, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Harry Wilson made our first-team debuts last season and Dom must feel that he will also get chances at Liverpool. Of course if he does well in training and so on, hopefully he will get his opportunity to prove himself. He feels that if he works hard and continues to improve, he will get those chances."

And what better place for Solanke to showcase his worth than on the hallowed home turf? "Anfield is an amazing stadium so I can't wait to experience that," says the 19-year-old, who officially joined the club last month following his departure from Chelsea. "When you see it on TV you can get a bit of what the atmosphere's like but to actually be there...I can't imagine what it's going to be like."

LFC's new no29 describes himself as an out-and-out centre-forward, though he did play a little deeper for England in that U20 World Cup triumph. "My favourite position would probably be the striker, number nine, but I can play behind the striker as a 10 or out wide, so I think I'm quite versatile. I just want to make an impact. Hopefully when I get my opportunity I can take it and help the team.

"You always want to see your club pushing young players through. I'm quite good friends with Joe Gomez – I've known him since we were young – and obviously Ovie and Sheyi Ojo, who were with us at the World Cup. We spoke a bit when we were away so I'm looking forward to enjoying it with them."

Of course Solanke, Ejaria and Ojo can now call themselves world champions – something no English footballers have been able to claim for 41 years. "Really special," is how Ovie describes it. "Because we have a really good team, I was able to keep learning from other good players and just enjoy my game while I was out there. Competing against the best players of my age was really good.

"You are in a bit of a bubble in a tournament like that so it was exciting to grow as a team on and off the field.

"Obviously it was easy to interact with Sheyi and Dom and I'm cool with the rest of the players too, so that made it a really good experience."

Ejaria also enjoyed working under former Manchester City, Oxford United and Derby County winger Paul Simpson, who'd been appointed England coach on the eve of the tournament.

"When I went to the World Cup it was my first time meeting him but it didn't take me to long to familiarise myself with his approach. I got to know him and felt comfortable around him really quickly so that was really good. Everyone in the squad was willing to listen and learn, and everybody was fully concentrated which really helped us throughout the tournament."

Ovie figured in three matches and was an unused substitute for the final against Venezuela. He admits to having a few butterflies while watching the action from the bench that day. "I was anxious. Venezuela had a penalty which our keeper [Freddie Woodman] saved. Emotionally, when things like that went our way, it was unbelievable."

Everton's Dominic Calvert-Lewin scored what proved to be the only goal of the game 10 minutes before half-time. "It was incredible, especially after the final whistle. Once you realise that you are a World Cup winner, it is unbelievable. It did take a while to sink in, to be honest."

Ejaria's own breakthrough at Anfield last term came to a halt when he was hit by injuries after rupturing



Ovie in pre-season action against Hertha Berlin


Dominic on target versus Crystal Palace in Hong Kong

his syndesmosis – the point just above the ankle where the tibia and the fibula meet – in January. Having worked hard to return to fitness, he's hoping to make an impact at first-team level again in 2017/18.

"It was frustrating but injuries are part and parcel of football and it's always about how you respond and react to the situation and ensuring you come back stronger. I think that I reacted quite well and I'm really feeling good right now.

"On the one hand, I am happy with my progress since I joined the club [in the summer of 2014] and how things have gone so far, but on the other I know that I still need to improve. There are still things I need to work on and that's what I am setting out to do.

"During the World Cup I was feeling really good so I feel like I'm in a good shape right now and looking forward to the season."

And with the Reds hoping to compete on four fronts during 2017/18, Ovie hopes that there will be opportunities for the youngsters to gain more first-team minutes. "Working week by week at Melwood has been really good. We have top coaches here and top coaches at the Academy too, so it's been really important in terms of my development.

"Steven Gerrard is at the Academy now and it will be really good to learn from one of the legends of Liverpool and one of the best midfield players of the modern era.

"Hopefully we will have more games to play this season so that might mean possibly more time for the young players to get involved. If we do well in training, we may get a chance to play and prove ourselves.

"Hopefully we can come through the Champions League qualifier. If it were to happen, it would be an unbelievable feeling to be able to be in and around the squad for a Champions League night and experience that."

Solanke meanwhile is relishing the prospect of developing his game under the management of Jürgen Klopp. "Every time I've seen him, he's always so enthusiastic and passionate. I think that's what you need as a manager, so I'm really looking forward to working with him. As a young player you just want to reach your full potential, so to have good players around you and a good manager to help will be really good."

Dominic opened his LFC account in the 2-0 Premier League Asia Cup semi-final win over Crystal Palace last month and was delighted to get off the mark quickly. He called it "a fantastic night. The fans were amazing, they made a great atmosphere, so to get my first goal in those circumstances was amazing. In the first two [friendly] games I came close a couple of times but it was worth the wait.

"Just being a Liverpool player feels amazing. Everyone's made me feel very welcome. Even putting on the training top I was over the moon, so hopefully I can put on the shirt and make some good history.

"Every time I see Liverpool, there's such a family nature. There's a lot of young players doing well at the club, so I think it will be a good place for me to develop my career."

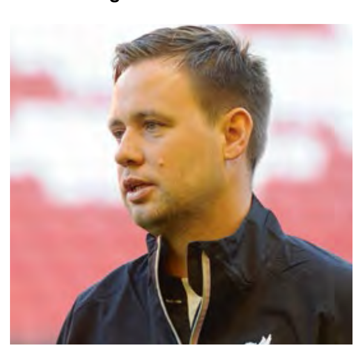
"He'll excite the fans"

Former Liverpool FC Academy coach Mick Beale knows plenty about Dominic Solanke.

Beale, who started last season as the Reds' Under-23s coach prior to becoming assistant-manager at Brazilian side Sao Paulo, first met Solanke at Chelsea in 2004. "I think he's going to excite a lot of people," he says. "He's a boy I've known since the age of six. He was training with our Under-Eights [at Chelsea] with Ovie Ejaria. They were two players in London who everybody knew about.

"Dominic had unbelievable movement mechanics at a young age, he was so fast. He got out of his mum or dad's car and just sprinted to the pitch, and he stayed like that for 90 minutes of your session. He's a boy who has a lot of enthusiasm. I have to say that he's matured into a very nice young man as well. He's a little bit shy, so people will [need to] be patient with him, but he's an outstanding goalscorer.

"And obviously he's just come off the back of the Under-20 World Cup where he was player of the tournament, so he also has a big CV."




Asia Trophy 2017
Premier League

WE WANT THIS SEASON TO BE LONG AND TOUGH, WE WANT TO BE PLAYING IN THE BEST COMPETITIONS

Jordan Henderson says he's matured into his role as captain of a Liverpool FC first-team squad which he firmly believes can achieve great things



Cast your mind back to the last weekend of February and Liverpool's 3-1 reverse at Leicester City on a Monday evening.

Defeat left Jürgen Klopp's side fifth in the league table, three points behind Manchester City, one behind Arsenal and one point above Manchester United, but with each of those sides having a game in hand. It came on the back of the Reds winning just one of their opening six Premier League games of 2017 – LFC's worst start to a calendar year since 1954 – and exiting both the EFL Cup and FA Cup at Anfield.

"We are all playing for our future here," said Jürgen Klopp, pointedly, afterwards. "I don't want to be too serious, but that's how it is."

Twitter, of course, went into Monday-night meltdown. Confidence that a top-four finish could still be achieved hadn't quite evaporated completely, but it was gurgling around the plughole. Believers were becoming doubters again. But not everywhere.

NOT BEING ABLE TO HELP THE TEAM WAS TOUGH BUT I KNEW WE'D MAKE THE TOP FOUR

Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson didn't play at the King Power Stadium. It was the first game he missed with what proved to be a season-ending foot injury and it's fair to say that he didn't enjoy watching that match – or the rest of the run-in for that matter – from the sidelines.

"I don't like watching," he states as we chat at Melwood ahead of the new season. "It's not for me. When you're injured it's the most difficult time as a player you go through, not being able to help your team-mates on the pitch. It was tough. It was very frustrating, the most frustrating thing you can have as a player. But you've just got to try to deal with it as best you can and try to work as hard as you can in other areas."

So was he sat at home thinking his chances of skippering Liverpool in the Champions League this season were disappearing? Nope. Henderson never lost faith in his team-mates.

"I was very confident that the squad we've got and the players we've got could go on to achieve that top-four



The skipper is back where he belongs – on the pitch





Prepare for take-off! Jordan and team-mates on the pre-season flight to Hong Kong

finish. We always knew it would be difficult, but I had full belief that we could finish in the top four."

His faith was justified. Eight wins and three draws from the 12 games that remained – including rousing 3-1 wins against Arsenal and Everton – turned things around. Those depressing January and February days felt like a lifetime ago when the Reds saw off Middlesbrough 3-0 at Anfield on a sunny final May day of the season to clinch fourth place,

IT IS IMPORTANT TO START THE SEASON WELL WHATEVER COMPETITION YOU'RE IN

allowing Kopites to spend the summer dreaming of Champions League nights against the big boys of Spain, Italy, Germany and France.

Henderson may well have done the same during his summer break, but he isn't thinking that far ahead now. Fourth place only gets you to the final hurdle in the home straight – now Liverpool must leap over it.

"The next step now is to win the Champions League qualifying games to qualify for the group stage, which

is going to be big for us. Last season was definitely a step in the right direction, but we know we've got to win these two games or the reality is that we won't have qualified for the Champions League. That makes them a huge couple of games. But we'll be ready."

They'll need to be because a two-legged qualifying play-off will be a new experience for the entire Liverpool FC squad. The club hasn't been involved in one since Rafael Benitez's side scraped past Standard Liege courtesy of an 118th-minute Dirk Kuyt winner in 2008, a full three years before Henderson – now LFC's longest-serving player – arrived at Anfield.

However, Klopp's squad showed in 2015/16 that they can successfully negotiate two-legged European ties by reaching the Europa League final, and 27-year-old Henderson believes that experience will serve them well against Hoffenheim.

"We'll prepare for those games as we normally would when preparing for any new season," he says as we sit a dozen feet away from the European Cup, gleaming beautifully inside a glass case in the Melwood reception area.

"The first games of the season are always important whether they are Premier League or a Champions League qualifier. It is important that you start the season well, whatever competition you are playing in, and I





Back in action in the new third kit

hope that the experience of reaching the Europa League final a couple of seasons ago will help us.

"You've got to learn from your experiences and that season we got to the final of the League Cup and the Europa League. Not being able to win the finals on both occasions was hard to take, but we've got to learn from it as best we can.

"We played a lot of games over two legs to reach those finals and that should stand us in good stead for the Champions League qualifier, and for the future. As I said, when those games come around we'll be ready."

Pundits are already queuing up to proclaim that a more difficult season is imminent due to the additional demands of playing in Europe following a campaign that lacked continental action. It's an argument laced with negativity: 'we'll spend all year telling you Champions League qualification is imperative then all summer saying you'll suffer because of it'. That mantra doesn't reflect the positive attitude inside the Liverpool dressing-room.

THE MORE GAMES YOU HAVE THE BETTER YOU ARE DOING, SO WE WANT MORE GAMES

"The more games you have the better you are doing as a team, so we want more games," continues Jordan. "I know it can be difficult at the time, but I feel as though we've got a good enough squad to deal with it.

"Obviously a long season can be tough, we know that, but at Liverpool we want to be playing in Europe, we want to be playing in the best tournaments like the Champions League.

"Liverpool is a huge club, a club that should be in the best competitions and the Champions League is certainly one of them. Hopefully we can do our job, qualify for the group stage and look to progress from there. It's an exciting time for the players."

Henderson himself can etch his name a little deeper into the LFC record books this month. The next time he leads the team out will be the 70th occasion he has captained Liverpool from the start of a match, putting him joint-25th on the all-time


BETVICTOR



Sharing a joke with head of fitness and conditioning Andreas Kornmayer

list alongside Bill Shankly's first captain, Dick White.

He listens intently as I explain his standing on the list, but the England international midfielder's ambitions stretch far beyond skippering the Redmen 70 times. "I tend not to take much notice of statistics like that because I feel I've still got much more to give in terms of performance on the pitch, but also that I've got a lot more time to serve here as well.

"The main priority for me as captain is doing my job as best I can for the team both on and off the pitch. I want to continue to improve and to help the team move forward, so I put my focus on that.

"Don't get us wrong, it's a huge honour to be captain of this football club – and my responsibility is to the team, the fans, to everyone – but first and foremost the main thing for me is doing my job, on and off the field, and doing it right. At the end of my career when I finish I'll probably look back at statistics and stuff like that, but at the minute I only look to the future and what I can improve on and do better."

Such an attitude reflects the mindset of a player who doesn't take his place in the Liverpool side for granted irrespective of his status as captain at a time when the club is celebrating its 125th anniversary. Henderson is also well aware of the responsibility that comes with the armband.

"I've always felt responsible as a player, but of course when you're captaining a team like Liverpool that responsibility goes even higher. I feel as though I've matured into the role and I've grown into it with the help of my team-mates and the manager. They've helped me cope with the responsibility in different ways and I feel as though I'm learning and I'm growing [as captain] all the time. Hopefully I can stay fit now and get back to where I was before, but then get even better."

That aim also represents what Liverpool supporters want to see from their team: get back to where we were before – multiple trophy-winners – and then get even better.

As proud as we all are of our club's glorious 125-year history, the sobering reality is that the Reds have won just a solitary League Cup, under Kenny Dalglish's management in 2012, during the last eleven seasons.

I put it to Henderson that surely it's about time more silverware was brought back to Anfield?

"Yeah," he says, with a nod of agreement. "As a group of players you want to win trophies and

Words: Chris McLoughlin



WITH THE QUALITY I SEE EVERY DAY IN TRAINING I FEEL WE CAN GO ON TO BE THE BEST

Liverpool Football Club should be winning trophies. We've got to take that responsibility on as a team so our aim – for the foreseeable future – is to win trophies.

"Last year it wasn't meant to be for us in certain games, but we still achieved the target we set of Champions League qualification through the top four, with the qualifier still to come. You've got to take each step as it comes, but a trophy is definitely the next step in our development."

Winning that silverware is easier said than done. Arsenal missed out on Champions League qualification with a record number of points last season, proving just how competitive the top end of the Premier League has become; while in the last four seasons both domestic cups have been won by just four clubs – Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester City and Manchester United.

Add Tottenham Hotspur – who've claimed back-to-back top-three finishes – and perhaps big-spending Everton into the mix for 2017/18, and I ask Henderson if the Premier League is the most competitive it has ever been?

"It is. There are a lot of good players and a lot of good teams in the Premier League so it is difficult, but with the quality I see every day in training – and the togetherness I see – I definitely feel excited. I feel we can go on and be the best team, not only in the Premier League but in other competitions too."

The best team? It's a bold claim, but one that has been instilled into the Liverpool captain by his boss.

"Since the manager came in he's definitely got a message across to the team that we need to realise how good we can be as a group. He's helped us massively in the sense of our mentality but also physically and tactically – in every area really.

"We've just got to listen to what he wants from us on a matchday and in training because if we do that we are capable of putting ourselves in a very good position."

If Liverpool's trophy-drought is to end in 2018 then, as club captain, Henderson himself will get his hands on the silverware first. As big a moment as that would be for him, he's again keen to emphasise that team success is more important that personal achievement when I enquire what raising aloft a piece of silverware as Reds' skipper would mean to him.

"I don't see it in the way of what it would mean to me. I've been asked this question before when we've got to finals – it's about winning a trophy, not lifting it.

"I couldn't feel any happier than to see this team win a trophy because the players, the manager and the fans deserve it. That would be enough for my happiness, not necessarily being the man who lifts a trophy.

"Of course it would be a proud moment, something to look back on in my career, but just to win a trophy with Liverpool Football Club – and this team – would be the main thing for me."

MARVELLOUS MILLY

One man who is especially glad to see Jordan Henderson fit again and playing is James Milner. The Liverpool vice-captain looked after the armband while Henderson was recovering from injury last season but is more than happy to hand it back.

"I don't like being captain because it means Hendo isn't fit and he's a big player for us," James has said. "He's a great captain, a leader and is a big miss for us so I don't like it on that front, but to captain Liverpool is obviously a great honour."

Milner is now the second-oldest member of the dressing room (after Ragnar Klavan) but the 31-year-old missed only two Premier League games last season, Nathaniel Clyne being the only man to play more often. He also spent the entire campaign operating in the previously unfamiliar role of left-back, something Henderson believes the man they call 'Milly' deserves the utmost credit for.

"A lot of people just look at me as captain but we have got a lot more leaders in this group, Milly being one of them, who drive the team forward and help with many different things. It's not just me, a lot of other players do their bit as well.

"Milly is one of those players who demands respect from everyone and gets respect from everyone for what he has done in the game in his career and for how he goes about things. He is first-class.

"Look how well he has done at left-back. He was fantastic there last season and he is still learning the role. He was brilliant, but he'll keep improving and hopefully he can do just as well there – if not better – this season."





The big kick-off at Watford on Saturday 12 August will be Jürgen Klopp's 100th match in charge of the Reds. Here LFC stats duo Ged Rea and Dave Ball analyse the first...



15 occasions on which Liverpool have scored four goals or more in a game: seven times at Anfield and eight away from home.

179 goals scored in league and cup; Emre Can scored the first in the home game with Rubin Kazan on Thursday 22 October 2015.

50.51% the percentage of wins overseen by Klopp in his opening 99 matches at the helm.

35 different teams Klopp has faced during his Reds tenure; he's faced Southampton on most occasions, with seven games.

2 games for which Jürgen has worn a suit: that first match in charge against Rubin Kazan and the 2016 League Cup final against Manchester City at Wembley.

50 victories under Klopp, the first coming against Bournemouth in the League Cup fourth round at Anfield on Wednesday 28 October 2015.



27

different players have scored for Liverpool with three netting 20-plus: Philippe Coutinho 25, Roberto Firmino 23, and Divock Origi 21.

76

seconds for the quickest goal scored by a Liverpool player from the start of a game, Daniel Sturridge against Newcastle United in April 2016.

49

different players used with five appearing just once: Sergi Canos, Ryan Kent, Joe Maguire, Jordan Rossiter and Harry Wilson.

19

games played by Klopp's most-used centre-back partnership: Dejan Lovren and Joel Matip.



33 points won from 18 games against the other 'big six' in league duels – six points more than the next best team over the same period, Tottenham Hotspur.

31 cup ties played by Liverpool in this period: 13 Europa League, 11 League Cup, and seven FA Cup.

19 players have made their Reds debut, including ten from the Academy: Alexander-Arnold, Canos, Ejaria, Kent, Maguire, Ojo, Randall, Ward, Wilson and Woodburn.

35 clean-sheets kept by Liverpool in all competitions since Klopp took charge.

26 goals scored by 11 different Liverpool subs, with Christian Benteke and Divock Origi netting six each.

21 years and 296 days: the average age of Liverpool's youngest starting XI in the club's history, as chosen by Klopp for the FA Cup tie with Plymouth Argyle at Anfield in 2017.

83 appearances for LFC by Nathaniel Clyne and Roberto Firmino under Klopp, more than anyone else.

18 matches played by Klopp's men during January alone, the most of any month (Jan 2016 and Jan 2017).



SIMON



While the English football season traditionally kicks off in August and ends in May, the football calendar in the modern era lasts for a full 12 months.

After Liverpool FC's final Premier League fixture against Middlesbrough on Sunday 21 May 2017 the Reds jetted out to Australia to play a post-season friendly against Sydney FC on Wednesday 24 May.

A round of World Cup qualifiers and international friendlies saw many of Jürgen Klopp's players continue to play as late as 13 June and then on the 17th FIFA's Confederations Cup kicked off – three days after the 2017/18 Premier League fixture list had been announced – in Russia.

Emre Can and Germany went all the way to the final, beating Chile 1-0 in St Petersburg on 2 July – six days *after* the 2017/18 UEFA Champions League first qualifying round had started!

Liverpool's players then returned to pre-season training on 5 July and a week later had the first of eight pre-season matches, at Tranmere Rovers, before visiting Hong Kong, Germany and Ireland. And this was said to be a quiet summer before the 2018 World Cup kicks-off next June!

Two years ago Simon Mignolet got married during his summer break, this year he used part of his four weeks off to holiday with wife Jasmine in California, something the 630,000-plus followers of his Instagram account will be well aware of.

From a Baywatch-style pose at a lifeguard station to photos of a helicopter flight over Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon and the Hoover Dam, it looked like they had quite a trip.

"I had only been to the USA through football, with the team and also with Belgium," says the Liverpool goalkeeper, looking tanned and relaxed as we chat inside Melwood following a pre-season training session. "We went to New Jersey for a training camp and saw New York with Belgium.

> **MY WIFE SPOTTED THE LIFEGUARD STATION WITH MY SQUAD NUMBER AND WE HAD TO GET A PICTURE!**

"I liked the idea of coming back to visit America – my missus had never seen it – so after going to California last year with Liverpool I thought it would be nice to go back there on a holiday because when you are with the team you only see stuff from on the coach. You don't really experience it like you do when you go on holiday.

"The people are always friendly there and I thought it was a good idea to see as much as we could because this summer we had a bit of a longer break as there was no international tournament.

"Next year that probably won't be the case so there won't be much time to travel or go on holiday and you can't always go as far as the west coast of America. This year we had the chance and it was a really nice experience – I'd love to go back."

The bright lights, glitz and glamour of Las Vegas attracts many a holidaymaker to the Nevada desert – tourism figures show that 17.5 million visitors travelled there between January and May 2017 – with the Mignolets adding to that number in June. But did he always bet on red on the roulette wheel in the casinos?

"Everybody speaks about the casinos in Las Vegas and gambling, but we only spent an hour in a casino because there was so much more to do and see. It was very hot! We went to the Grand Canyon and there are so many shows there to enjoy.



After a summer refresh in the Californian sunshine and a busy pre-season, goalkeeper Simon Mignolet declares the Reds raring to go!

"We also rented a car and did a bit of driving around there, but we didn't manage to get up to San Fransisco or see Yosemite National Park, which is something I'd like to see myself in the future."

I mention the Instagram photo he uploaded of himself wearing swimming shorts while posing next to a wooden lifeguard station with a giant number 22 nailed onto the side. He laughs before I even get the opportunity to say the words 'David' and 'Hasselhoff' or point out he should've worn red shorts.

"My missus spotted that! She said 'Si look, it's your number 22' so I said 'Go on then, take a picture of me with that!' It went around well [on Instagram] and we found it really funny. It was at Newport Beach in California, the first stop we made, and we actually met a surfer there who knew who I was."

Belgium isn't particularly known for surfing – the beer is swell, the seawater less so – but did he catch a wave or two off the Californian coast? "I didn't give surfing a go – we have to be careful and there are things we can't do as footballers – but there wasn't much time for it anyway as we had so much to go and see. We did see people surfing and to learn it properly I think you'd have to give it a good week."

EVERYONE HAS RECOVERED FROM LAST SEASON AND WE'VE ALL TRAINED HARD

And so to pre-season, with Mignolet confirming it has been business as usual for Klopp's squad. "Pre-season has been no more or no less tougher than it normally is. We had four weeks off but I always stay on top of my fitness even when I'm away so it wasn't difficult to come back in and be in really good shape.

"Once you come back you have to push yourself to be ready for when the season starts, to get back to the level of fitness that you had in the middle of last season. Everybody feels fresh, everybody has recovered from last season and it is enjoyable to train hard again and get the feel of the ball again.

"This can be a really exciting season for us. Everybody is looking forward to it and we know we start the season off with some very important games.



Saluting fans in Hong Kong with fellow keeper Kamil Grabara


Standard Chartered
Premier League

Train in the rain

"We start in the Premier League with an away game at Watford and we are also looking forward to the qualifying games for the Champions League, obviously two games that are really important for us.

"We have to make sure we are a ready from the first day onwards to get the season off on a high."

Simon is speaking before the identity of the Reds' opponents in the Champions League qualifying round was known, but the importance of being ready for those games has been at the forefront of everybody's minds during pre-season. Mignolet believes the run to the 2016 Europa League final in Basel will help Liverpool when the games arrive...and there is still a job to do to make last season's fourth-placed finish worthwhile.

"We played a lot of two-legged games against direct opponents in the Europa League so that was a good experience for us. Hopefully the experience of reaching two finals will be helpful, but we also know that every leg of every tie is different and that we will be facing a tough opponent.

"Like I said, it will be a very important couple of games and hopefully a very busy year with loads of games for us to play. First and foremost we have to make sure we are physically ready and able to deal with the opening games.

"I said last season there is a

EVERY TIME I PUT ON A LIVERPOOL SHIRT I LOOK TO MYSELF TO PROVE I AM WORTHY OF WEARING IT

difference between finishing third and fourth, but it is so hard in the Premier League to get a top-four spot. We managed to do that, but now we must make sure we build on that and finish the job off by getting into the Champions League group stage."

Mignolet finished 2016/17 as Liverpool's first-choice goalkeeper having previously lost his place to Loris Karius for three months of the season, but whether he starts 2017/18 between the posts remains to be seen. With Welsh international Danny Ward – Huddersfield Town's penalty-saving Championship play-off hero – back at Melwood following his loan-spell in West Yorkshire there is added competition for the goalkeeping jersey, something the Liverpool manager is happy about.

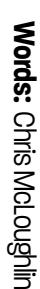
"That's very comfortable for the manager, three really good goalkeepers," said Klopp at the start of pre-season. "It is like it is and nothing is decided, they can all show how good they are. We have three goalkeepers and they can all show what they are able to do, and then we will see who will start."

No guarantees there, then. With 180 Liverpool appearances behind him compared to 16 for Karius, and Ward having only started twice, 29-year-old Mignolet is by far the most experienced contender. But he is well aware that you have to earn the right to play for LFC.

"When you put on a Liverpool shirt you have to prove you are worthy of wearing it. I look to myself to prove it. There's not much time to look at colleagues who are playing next to me, it's about making sure that I do the things I am doing and it is why I first and foremost try to push myself.

"I know what my standard is. I know my level of fitness and I know what I want from myself. The other keepers are there to push me, but also John Achterberg and the other coaches. We have been working hard and I feel I am ready to go into the season."

After reaching two cup finals in 2015/16 and finishing fourth in the Premier League the following season, expectations about what Liverpool could achieve in 2017/18 are understandably high. The more a team progress, the more the fans expect, so I finish by asking Mignolet if the players have set themselves a



specific target for the new season: perhaps a cup win or even the Premier League title?

"We don't think like that," he says, cutting the question off before I've finished asking it. "As a team you always work to the next game. For now it is working towards the first game and making sure we are ready when the season starts, but everybody is really hungry inside the dressing-room for a trophy.

"I am, personally. I am in my fifth year here now and my hunger for a trophy or a medal has always been there. We came close in the League Cup final and the Europa League final in 2016 – and of course we finished second in the Premier League in my first season – so we have been thereabouts. Now we have to make sure we capitalise on opportunities.

"The team has stayed together so far, we've introduced some new faces and we have a manager who has experienced being successful so we are all very hungry to get a medal."

Here's hoping a medal is something Simon Mignolet can show off on Instagram when he goes away next summer then...



Pedal power!

SAN REMO, SUMMER OF 63...

Simon Mignolet's summer-break is a far cry from how life was for the Liverpool FC squad half-a-century ago. In 1963 the Reds had just completed their first campaign back in the top-flight following promotion, finishing eighth, and manager Bill Shankly sent his players on holiday – together!

"We shan't ask the lads to kick a ball while they are away," he said, after revealing his first-team squad and a number of reserve and youth-team players would be spending a week in San Remo, Italy with him. "I think it more than ever necessary...for players to get all the rest they can in close-season.

"I welcome the chance to give a short holiday to our younger players who have done so well for us this last season. We have had a fine season and as our team is young I anticipate they will do even better in season 1963/64."

Shankly anticipated right. Liverpool went on to win the league in 1963/64, all the more remarkable for a side that didn't play a single official pre-season match after returning from San Remo. You read that correctly – none.

Being a natural competitor, Bill believed friendlies could never truly stay 'friendly' and the risk of injury – at a time when squads were small and substitutes were only just being introduced – was too great.

Instead he arranged behind-closed-doors matches between the first team and the reserves, something captain Ron Yeats wrote about in the Liverpool Echo in August 1963: "These practice matches are a regular feature of training once we are thoroughly broken-in, the object being to give every player the same amount of running about which he would do in a full game. Naturally we do not go flat-out because of risk of injury, but otherwise we play hard.

"Matt Busby has been to great lengths to arrange pre-season games for Manchester United but he's had bad luck, both in Scotland where Denis Law was injured, and against Eintracht [Frankfurt] when Noel Cantwell was sent off. Neither of these incidents is calculated to improve the streamlined moves of a side."

For the record, both the first team and reserves won one and drew the other of the three games played at Melwood that summer, with Shankly's starting XI clinching a series win in a fourth contest held at Anfield – the first (unofficial) match played in front of the newly-built Kemlyn Road stand.

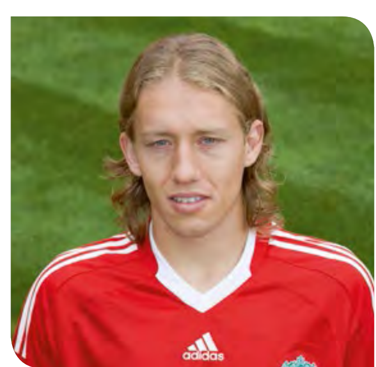


LUCAS
10 YEARS A RED

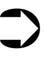
As he embarks upon a new challenge at Lazio we salute his decade with Liverpool FC



2007/08: Reds fans get their first glimpse of Lucas at Anfield in August 2007 when he replaces Momo Sissoko in a Champions League qualifier against Toulouse; six days earlier the 20-year-old midfielder had also made his first appearance (as a sub) for Brazil. Soon he's making a big impact in the Merseyside derby on his Premier League debut: brought on by manager Rafael Benitez for Steven Gerrard for the final 18 minutes at Goodison, with the score at 1-1 but Everton down to ten men, his goalbound shot in the final minute is pawed away by Phil Neville. It leaves the Blues down to nine men and allows Dirk Kuyt to win the game with his second penalty. Lucas also thunders in a long-range equaliser against Havant & Waterlooville in an FA Cup fourth-round tie at Anfield in January 2008.



2008/09: having played for the Brazil national team that wins the bronze medal at the Olympic Games in Beijing, he makes 39 appearances in a domestic season that sees the Reds go oh-so-close to winning the Premier League title. He's a substitute in the thumping 4-0 home win over Real Madrid in the Champions League, starts the sensational 4-1 Premier League win at Old Trafford, then helps Liverpool become the first side to score three goals against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in a European tie when he makes it 3-3 in the Champions League semi-final second leg. Lucas also scores in a 3-0 home win over Newcastle United in May: his header from compatriot Fabio Aurelio's free-kick is the 200th scored by an LFC substitute!





2009/10: makes his highest number of apps in a single LFC season with 50 during a difficult campaign which ends with the departure of manager Rafael Benitez. Scores his only goal of the season in a Europa League quarter-final against Benfica, racing onto Steven Gerrard's pass and rounding the keeper to slot home.



2010/11: steps up when Javier Mascherano leaves for Barcelona and scores a 25-yarder for Roy Hodgson's Reds against Steaua Bucharest in the Europa League group stage. He remains a consistent presence in midfield during the transition to new boss Kenny Dalglish, featuring in 47 first-team fixtures, earning a new four-year contract and being named Standard Chartered player of the season.



2011/12: starts 15 of the first 17 games, then his campaign shudders to a halt in a League Cup tie at Chelsea where he ruptures the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee and is ruled out for the rest of the season. Misses the League Cup final victory over Cardiff City at Wembley.

Most overall apps by overseas players for LFC

1 Bruce Grobbelaar (628)
2 Sami Hyypia (464)
3 Pepe Reina (394)
4 Gordon Hodgson (377)
5 John Arne Riise (348)
6 Lucas (346)

Most Premier League apps by overseas players for LFC

1 Sami Hyypia (318)
2 Pepe Reina (285)
3 Lucas (247)
4 Martin Skrtel (242)
5 John Arne Riise (234)
6 Dirk Kuyt (208)





2012/13: returns to action in August 2012 but injures his thigh during the warm-up against Manchester City in new boss Brendan Rodgers' first Premier League match at Anfield. Sidelined until the start of December but reaches the milestone of 200 LFC apps in the home fixture against West Brom in February 2013.



2013/14: plays a key role in a rollercoaster tilt at the Premier League title, playing in two-thirds of the team's games, but misses the cut for Brazil's 23-man squad for the 2014 World Cup finals in his homeland. His work for the LFC Foundation is recognised at the Players' Awards dinner: he wins the Bill Shankly Award for upholding the club's values and showing dignity, unity, commitment and ambition.



2014/15: in the hangover season after coming so close to Premier League glory, Lucas makes 32 appearances – taking his overall LFC tally to 275 – as the Reds finish sixth, struggle in the Champions League and lose an FA Cup semi-final against Aston Villa at Wembley.



2015/16: the arrival of Jürgen Klopp as manager in October 2015 signals a change for Lucas as he's utilised in central defence as well as midfield. Following Steven Gerrard's retirement, he becomes the club's longest-serving player and produces an outstanding performance in the League Cup final against Manchester City. He also contributes to the thrilling run to the Europa League final but is an unused substitute in Basel.



2016/17: breaks a seven-year scoring duck in January 2017 with a header in the FA Cup at Plymouth. Makes 31 apps as the team secure a top-four finish and return to the Champions League. After the final game of the season he's presented with a special award by Kenny Dalglish. His off-the-bench appearance against Middlesbrough takes his total to 346, putting him fourth in the list of games played for LFC by overseas outfield players.

His farewell letter: "a special place in my heart"

"When I first joined Liverpool 10 years ago, I had three main ambitions. First, I wanted to win a place in the team, which I managed to do. Next, I hoped to prove myself worthy of the shirt, an aim that others will be better-placed than me to decide whether or not it was achieved. Finally, I looked ahead to the future with a hope that if and when the time came to leave this wonderful club I would do so on the best possible terms...

"I have been blessed to live and work in this city, a place that I have come to realise is different to any other, and while living here I have been married and blessed with two wonderful children, so whatever happens now we will always take Liverpool with us everywhere we go. I have also been fortunate to play with so many world-class team-mates and shared their devotion to do everything that we could to help the club be as good as it can be...

"Off the pitch, I was honoured to become a trustee of the LFC Foundation and got to see at first-hand the work they do in the local community. When I celebrated being at Liverpool for a decade recently, it meant a lot to hear some of the children who the Foundation has helped describe me as a Scouser...

"Liverpool Football Club and its supporters will always have a special place in my heart. On top of that, the personality, humour, dignity and integrity of the people of this city will also stay with me forever...

"From the bottom of my heart, thank you to every single Liverpool fan. My family and myself will always be grateful for your support and for being part of this great club, which means we will also be sad now that the time has come for me to leave. All I can say now is that I hope more than anything else that the new season turns out to be a great one for my new club and my old club."



THE ULTIMATE LUCAS QUIZ



Think you know it all about our Lazio-bound lad? Well then, prove it...

1 In which Brazilian city was Lucas born?

2 True or false: in 2006 he became the youngest player to win Brazil's Bola de Oura or Golden Ball?

3 Lucas played for Gremio in the 2007 Copa Libertadores final against which Argentinian team?

4 His international debut came against Algeria in 2007 – but which future LFC player started that game in goal for Brazil?

5 Who was the Brazil coach that gave him his first cap in that game, as a substitute?

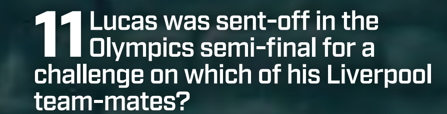
6 His uncle Leivinha, also a Brazilian international, played for which Spanish side in the 1970s?

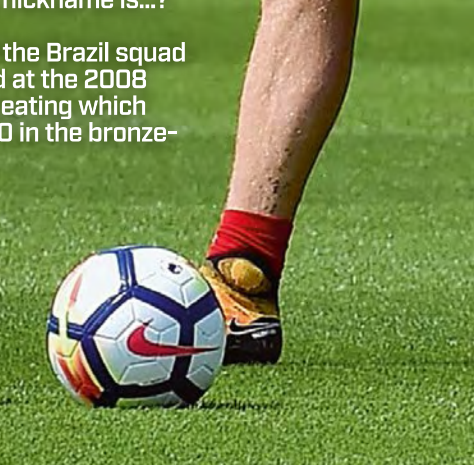
7 Which Italian club made an offer to sign Lucas from Gremio before he opted for Liverpool?

8 His first appearance for Liverpool came in the final of the 2007 pre-season Premier League Asia tournament in Hong Kong – against whom?

9 Lucas became the first Brazilian to score for LFC when he found the net against Havant and Waterlooville, whose nickname is...?

10 He was part of the Brazil squad that came third at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, beating which European country 3-0 in the bronze-medal match?







11 Lucas was sent-off in the Olympics semi-final for a challenge on which of his Liverpool team-mates?

12 Against which team was he sent-off in an FA Cup fourth-round replay in February 2009?

13 In May 2009 he headed his only Premier League goal – which goalkeeper did he beat?

14 Lucas scored in pre-season games ahead of both the 2008/09 and 2009/10 seasons – who were the opponents?

15 Which Liverpool manager gave him the captain's armband for the first time, and against which team was it?

16 Lucas was named as LFC's player of the season for 2010/11 – which players finished second and third in the voting?

17 With which Spanish star did he collide when he ruptured his ACL in a League Cup tie at Chelsea in November 2011?

18 In January 2016 he made his 300th appearance for LFC in the League Cup semi-final second leg at Anfield against which team?

19 Under how many different managers did Lucas play at LFC?

20 A 10-year anniversary dinner was held in his honour at Anfield in April; which two Manchester City players attended the event?

Answers: **1.** Dourados in southern Brazil; **2.** True; **3.** Boca Juniors; **4.** Alexander Doni; **5.** Dunga; **6.** Atletico Madrid; **7.** Inter Milan; **8.** Portsmouth; **9.** The Hawks; **10.** Belgium; **11.** Javier Mascherano of Argentina; **12.** Everton; **13.** Newcastle's Steve Harper; **14.** Lucerne and Atletico Madrid; **15.** Roy Hodgson, against Rabotnicki in the 2010/11 Euopa League third qualifying round first leg; **16.** Dirk Kuyt and Pepe Reina; **17.** Juan Mata; **18.** Stoke City; **19.** Five – Benitez, Hodgson, Dalglish, Rodgers and Klopp; **20.** Fernandinho and Pablo Zabaleta.


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BRING ON YER INTERNAZIONALE

LIVERPOOL 3 INTER MILAN 1

Tuesday 4 May 1965
European Cup semi-final first leg

The grainy black-and-white footage and Ken Wolstenholme commentary, the pre-match FA Cup parade and perfectly-executed goals, the roar of the Kop and dulcet tones (with different lyrics) of *Santa Lucia*. It's now over 52 years since the first great European night in Liverpool FC history, when Inter Milan, the reigning World Club Cup champions, were swept aside, three days after the Reds had won the FA Cup.

Anfield's turnstiles were closed 90 minutes before kick-off with 54,000 inside. Roger Hunt half-volleyed in the first. Inter equalised. Ian Callaghan squeezed in from a well-worked free-kick. Ian St John made it three.

The Milan newspaper *Corriere Della Sera* reported: "Inter were dazed. We lift off our hats to Liverpool. On Saturday they had won the English Cup after a battle lasting 120 minutes, and for two days they had been protagonists and victims of demonstrations of enthusiasm. We expected a Liverpool exhausted by its efforts [but] on the field they found all the energies which we thought would've been lost. [But] the moving, colourful and electrifying support of their fans is not enough to explain the surprising technical quality of their game. The breath of the man who shouts does not help the man who has to run."

Perhaps not, but then again: this was Anfield.

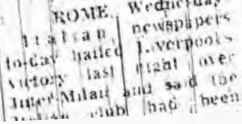






Inter Stunned And Dominated

Italian Press Is Lavish With Praise For Liverpool









ONE STEP FROM THE FINAL













Celtic, Pride of Scotland, shattered in Anfield thriller

LIVERPOOL 2 CELTIC 0

Tuesday 19 April 1966
Cup Winners Cup semi-final second leg

Liverpool's second European semi-final in as many years: Bill Shankly's league leaders against Jock Stein's soon-to-be European champions. The first leg in Glasgow finished 1-0 to Celtic, and Liverpool were without the injured Roger Hunt for both matches.

Geoff Strong took Hunt's place at Anfield for a game that was attended by England manager Alf Ramsey. What an atmosphere awaited him: steam rising from a packed Kop at one end of the ground; Celtic fans crammed into the other, green-and-white scarves swirling above their heads to the accompaniment of bagpipes. The noise inspired both sides as, in contrast to the first leg, an open encounter ensued.

Michael Charters of the *Liverpool Echo* reported: "It was incredible football from Liverpool, skilful and fast, and backed by a tremendous roar of encouragement from their leather-lunged fans."

On the hour Tommy Smith found the net with a low free-kick which zipped along the sodden turf. Six minutes later Strong, hobbling from a knee injury he'd suffered earlier, climbed highest to meet an Ian Callaghan cross and head inside the post of the Kop goal. "This was a night to remember', concluded the *Echo*. 'An occasion to savour and probably the finest of all the European games in which Liverpool have played."





LIVERPOOL 2 AJAX 2

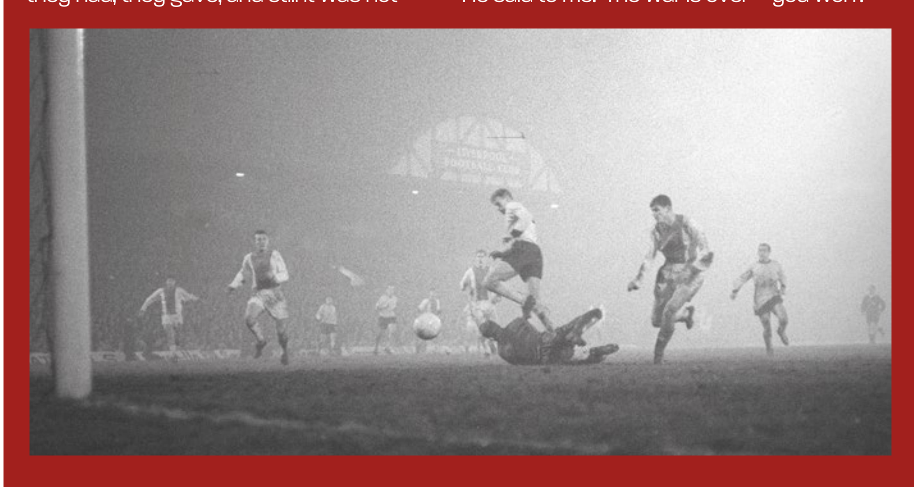
Wednesday 14 December 1966
European Cup second round second leg

Five-one down from the first leg in Amsterdam, the Reds – actually playing in white jerseys and red shorts at Anfield – were roared on by 54,000 fans convinced by Bill Shankly that "we'll beat them 7-0."

It wasn't to be, of course, the game finishing all-square with two goals each for Roger Hunt and 19-year-old Johan Cruyff. The *Echo*'s Horace Yates reported: "Liverpool fought like heroes. Everything they had, they gave, and still it was not enough. Surely that is sufficient to award the laurels to their conquerors."

Before kick-off Ajax boss Rinus Michels had sent his players out early to warm-up. Winger Sjaak Swart later said: "I will never forget that. There we were, alone on the pitch, facing the Kop, and they all started singing *You'll Never Walk Alone*. I'd never heard that song, but I got goosebumps. I've always been a Liverpool follower since."

After the final whistle Shanks went to the Ajax dressing-room to congratulate them. "That was impressive," recalled defender Anton Pronk. "He was a larger-than-life guy. He said to me: 'The war is over – you won'."





LIVERPOOL 3 BORUSSIA MOENCHENGLADBACH 0

Thursday 10 May 1973
UEFA Cup final first leg

The result that paved the way for Liverpool FC's first piece of European silverware, after the original first leg was abandoned inside half-an-hour due to monsoon-like conditions.

Twenty-four hours later – spectators were allowed in for just 10 pence – Bill Shankly opted to change his line-up. He included John Toshack, who climbed high to nod down for Kevin Keegan to head the opener on 21 minutes. So spooked were Moenchengladbach by Toshack's presence that Rainer Bonhof then handled the ball in the area in an attempt to prevent the big Welshman from gaining possession. Keegan saw his resulting penalty saved but soon made amends from close-range after good work from Toshack again.

Just after the hour-mark another aerial delivery – this time a corner from Keegan – found centre-half Larry Lloyd who planted a header high in to the net. Borussia won a spot-kick of their own but Ray Clemence saved from Jupp Heynckes. "I watched him take a penalty in the semi-final on television and decided to dive the same way," revealed Clem. "The save was a reward for my homework."

In the return leg the Reds went two down but held on to claim the trophy.



BRILLIANT LIVERPOOL

Wonderbar–Keegan sends 'em Moenchen sad back!

LIVERPOOL 3 BRUGES 2

Wednesday 28 April 1976
UEFA Cup final first leg

There's every chance the noise from the crowd for Liverpool's three goals v Bruges in this game bettered the roar for David Fairclough's goal v St Etienne a year later.

Forty-one years ago, in the first leg of the UEFA Cup final, the Reds went two-down in 15 minutes to the Belgians, both their goals scored at the heaving Kop end. Liverpool's second-half revival came down the left, and Gerald Sinstadt was ITV commentator. First it was "Heighway, bringing in Kennedy – left foot, good night!" Then Jimmy Case bundled home the equaliser off a post – "two-two!" And finally Heighway was fouled in the box "and Keegan comes up now and sends [the keeper] the wrong way! Three in five minutes and Liverpool are in front!"

Case later recalled: "The fans were magnificent that night. But you know what, I believe they liked to see us with our backs to the wall because they knew we could win."













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LIVERPOOL 3 ST ETIENNE 1

Wednesday 16 March 1977
European Cup quarter-final second leg

The most famous goal by a substitute in Anfield history. Four decades ago St Etienne were French champions and the previous season's finalists in the European Cup.

Having beaten Liverpool 1-0 in the first leg they trailed 2-1 at Anfield – still enough for *Les Verts* to go through on away-goals – when sub Fairclough chased down a long punt from Ray Kennedy. He recalls. "I took the ball down on my chest, took one touch with my right foot, and as the keeper came towards me I remember thinking: hit it close to him because he can't get down quick enough. That's what I did: just tried to hit it as hard and low as I could."

Cue commentator Gerald Sinstadt: "And Fairclough is onside... This now could be interesting... Fairclough! SUPERSUB STRIKES AGAIN!"


EUROPEAN CUP SPECIAL

FAIRCLOUGH IS ANFIELD HERO







LIVERPOOL 6 HAMBURG 0

Tuesday 6 December 1977
UEFA Super Cup second leg

Back in the days when the Super Cup was a two-legged final, the Reds had drawn 1-1 in the first game in Germany a fortnight earlier. For Kevin Keegan, now playing for European Cup Winners Cup winners SV Hamburg, the second leg was a first return to Anfield since his summer move.

The pre-match hype was all about him and Kenny Dalglish, his replacement at Liverpool, but the post-match headlines were all about Terry McDermott, three-goal hero in a 6-0 rout: the first a left-footed half-volley in the box from Ray Kennedy's chipped pass; the second a 25-yard piledriver at the Kop End; the third a neat left-footed finish from another 'Razor' assist.

"Someone was injured, I think it may have been Ian Callaghan," recalled Terry Mac. "I was moved in rather than be out wide on the right. I scored a hat-trick and I always remember John Toshack saying: 'That's your position'.

"I got the confidence from Tosh saying a thing like that. He probably won't remember, but I do."









LIVERPOOL 3 BORUSSIA MOENCHENGLADBACH 0

Wednesday 12 April 1978
European Cup semi-final second leg

Kenny Dalglish's smile lit up Anfield as Liverpool welcomed old foes BMG – but because of industrial action this semi-final second leg never aired on British TV.

Borussia were defending a 2-1 first-leg lead. In front of 51,500 fans Ray Kennedy headed the Liverpool opener on six minutes at the Anfield Road end and had an assist in both Kenny Dalglish's left-footed volley (35 mins) and Jimmy Case's cannonball in front of the Kop (56 mins).

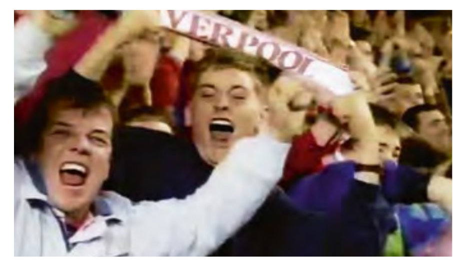
Frank McGhee of the *Daily Mirror* wrote: "Liverpool must now be the hottest favourites for years to keep their proudest possession, the European Cup, and so create history by becoming the first British club to defend that coveted trophy successfully... The mood and confidence of the Merseysiders last night – and the impressive football they produced – could all have been designed for winning the big one. It was a team performance by Liverpool but individual heroics played an important part."



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LIVERPOOL 3 AUXERRE 0

Wednesday 6 November 1991
UEFA Cup second round second leg

One of the great if relatively unsung comebacks. Only 23,000 were at Anfield to watch a Reds team crippled by injuries (just four subs on the bench) and UEFA's 'four-foreigners' rule (only four non-English players permitted) but what a racket they made.

Liverpool under manager Graeme Souness went into the game two-down from the first leg in France, having won just two of their last 11. Before kick-off BBC pundit Jimmy Hill called the task "exceedingly difficult if not impossible" but ex-Reds defender Alan Hansen, who'd retired 18 months earlier, countered: "Get an early goal, get the crowd on their side, and who knows what can happen?"

In an electric atmosphere Liverpool scored after four minutes, Jan Molby from the spot, before Mike Marsh's header made it two-all on aggregate. With six minutes left and Auxerre down to ten men following a red card, Mark Walters raced onto Molby's pass to win it in front of a convulsing Kop. "They were chasing back," pronounced commentator Barry Davies over the replay. "Walters looked...struck...scored." Bedlam.

LIVERPOOL 1 BARCELONA 0

Thursday 19 April 2001
UEFA Cup semi-final second leg

Pepe Reina, Michael Reiziger, Frank de Boer, Pep Guardiola, Carlos Puyol, Philip Cocu, Luis Enrique, Emmanuel Petit, Marc Overmars, Rivaldo, Patrick Kluivert... Not a bad Barca team, was it?

The Reds, though, prevailed in this repeat of the 1976 UEFA Cup semi-final between the clubs, with the Anfield atmosphere in overdrive once again. On the stroke of half-time Kluivert handled from a Gary McAllister corner and the ref pointed to the spot. Up stepped Gary Mac, three days after his memorable late winner in the Goodison derby, to send Pepe the wrong way and put us in the final.











LIVERPOOL 2 ROMA 0

Tuesday 19 March 2002
Champions League second group stage

Eighteen years after their European Cup final encounter, and a season after a UEFA Cup fourth-round tie won 2-1 on aggregate by Liverpool, these two clubs met again in what was then the second group stage of the Champions League.

A goalless draw in Rome was followed by an emotional night in L4. Manager Gerard Houllier returned to the bench after heart surgery to see his side register a 2-0 victory over Fabio Capello's team thanks to goals from Jari Litmanen, with a seventh-minute penalty, and Emile Heskey, with a towering second-half header at the Kop end.

It meant Liverpool were in the quarter-finals of the European Cup for the first time since 1985, but they bowed out to a Bayer Leverkusen side that lost the Glasgow final to a Zinedine Zidane volley for Real Madrid.

Triumphant Reds make it a night to savour as Houllier returns to Anfield



MAN OF THE MATCH
Emile Heskey
It says something about his performance that one player can stand out among a team of conquering heroes, but Heskey achieved just that with a display that somehow managed to smooth over the absence of Michael Owen and Nicolas Anelka.

SPOT ON: Jari Litmanen puts Liverpool one-up (above) while Gerard Houllier soaks up the atmosphere during last night's Champions League Group B clash (right)

Wednesday, March 20, 2002 Liverpool ECHO

Look Hou's back!

Reds' managerial magician conjures up sensational return

By KEN ROGERS





LIVERPOOL 3 OLYMPIACOS 1

Wednesday 8 December 2004
Champions League group stage

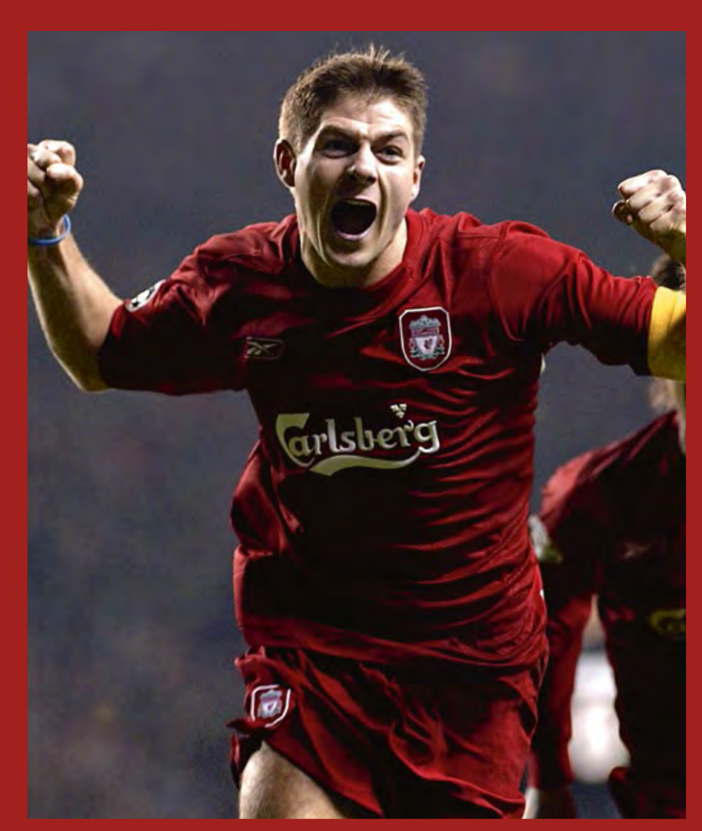
Who remembers the press-conference the day before? "We're going to be very aggressive, we're going to be up for it, and hopefully we can play some nice football and get the right result," Steven Gerrard told the assembled media at Melwood.

"We don't have to win it in the first 20 minutes, we need to be patient... I love playing in the Champions League and so do all the other boys.

"No one's talking about [dropping down into] the UEFA Cup at the moment and hopefully that won't be the case come Thursday morning. Everyone at the club wants to stay in this competition – we don't want to be in the UEFA Cup draw come the end of the week."

We most certainly weren't. After Rivaldo put Olympiacos ahead with a cute free-kick before the break, Liverpool needed three second-half goals to go through. Substitutes Florent Sinama-Pongolle and Neil Mellor got the first two from close-range, before the latter's 86th-minute knockdown fell to Gerrard 20 yards out.

As Jürgen Klopp might say: BOOM!















LIVERPOOL 2 JUVENTUS 1

Tuesday 5 April 2005
Champions League quarter-final first leg

Prior to last season, Zlatan Ibrahimovic had played twice at Anfield and this was the first time: he was upfront in a Juve team which also included Alessandro del Piero, Gianluigi Buffon, Fabio Cannavaro, Lilian Thuram and Pavel Nedved.

Two decades on from the Heysel disaster, Anfield paid its respects to the victims with a minute's silence and the mosaic of the word AMICIZIA – friendship – before kick-off. Goals from Sami Hyypia and Luis Garcia – "I knew it was a good strike but I never imagined it could beat Buffon from that distance" – put Liverpool two up before Ibrahimovic hit the post then Cannavaro headed past 19-year-old keeper Scott Carson. A goalless draw in Turin sent the Reds through.

Zlatan's second game here? With Inter Milan in a Champions League first knockout round first leg won 2-0 by Liverpool.









LIVERPOOL 1 CHELSEA 0

Tuesday 3 May 2005
Champions League semi-final second leg

The stadium shuddered and the cameras shook, the night Luis Garcia's goal took Liverpool back to Europe's showcase final.

Between that fourth-minute moment and Eidur Gudjohnsen's shot across the Kop bows deep into added time, it's hard to remember anything else that happened, such was the tension. But apparently Jamie Carragher denied Didier Drogba, there was a shout against John Terry for handball from a Steven Gerrard cross, Jerzy Dudek saved from a Frank Lampard free-kick and substitute Djibril Cisse, on for Milan Baros, headed straight at Petr Cech on his line.

"Liverpool's players seemed to have an extra metre of pace as they contested every 50-50 ball," said the UEFA.com match report, "while their fans lived up to their billing as the best in the land."





LIVERPOOL 1 CHELSEA 0

Tuesday 1 May 2007
Champions League semi-final second leg

Maybe not a classic, but right up there for more nail-biting Rafa v Jose drama. Twenty minutes in, Daniel Agger's side-footed strike made it 1-1 on aggregate. After 100 more minutes without a goal, Pepe Reina saved twice in a spot-kick shoot-out won 4-1 by the Reds.

Skipper Steven Gerrard: "The first time [beating Chelsea in a Champions League semi-final] was special but to do it again from being a goal down against a magnificent squad is fantastic. The manager's tactics were spot-on and we crossed that line and stuck together out there. The players fought for every ball. If we are through to the final it has made all of that hard work worthwhile."

LIVERPOOL 4 ARSENAL 2

Tuesday 8 April 2008
Champions League quarter-final second leg

The following is from the BBC website's live news feed on the night...

19.58: GOAL! Liverpool 0-1 Arsenal (agg 1-2). Liverpool have been creaking and they finally succumb. Alex Hleb plays in Abou Diaby down the right of the box and he smashes home a low shot at the near post.

20.16: GOAL! Liverpool 1-1 Arsenal (agg 2-2). Would you believe it? Manuel Almunia concedes the corner with a desperate one-handed save from Steven Gerrard's deflected cross. Gerrard's delivery is brilliantly headed into the top corner by Sami Hyypia.

21.12: GOAL! Liverpool 2-1 Arsenal (agg 3-2). Fernando Torres controls Peter Crouch's flick, turns and fires into the top corner. A brilliant, brilliant goal from the Spaniard.

21.26: GOAL! Liverpool 2-2 Arsenal (agg 3-3). Take a bow, Theo Walcott. The young England winger skips through the midfield, passing three or four men, before setting up Emmanuel Adebayor to slide home. As it stands, Arsenal are going through on away-goals.

21.28: GOAL! Liverpool 3-2 Arsenal (agg 4-3). I cannot believe what I'm seeing. Kolo Toure drags down Ryan Babel and the ref points to the spot. Steven Gerrard puts the penalty into the top corner.

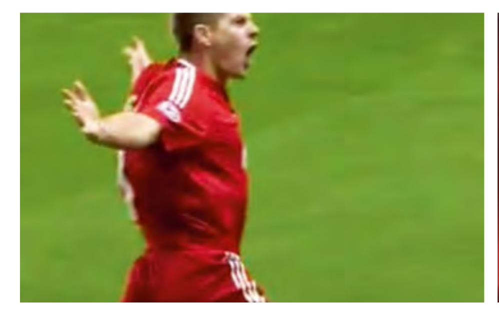
21.35: GOAL! Liverpool 4-2 Arsenal (agg 5-3). As Arsenal press forward, they leave huge, gaping holes at the back. Liverpool win back the ball and release Ryan Babel, who holds off Cesc Fabregas's challenge before stabbing the ball past a desperately back-tracking Manuel Almunia. Game over.













LIVERPOOL 4 REAL MADRID 0

Tuesday 10 March 2009
Champions League round of 16 second leg

Europe's most decorated club got a footballing lesson on their first-ever visit to Anfield, for a Champions League round of 16 second leg.

According to Spanish newspaper *Marca*, playing in front of the Kop would hold no fears for such a star-studded side as Real Madrid, but how wrong they were.

Having won 1-0 at the Bernabeu in the first leg a fortnight earlier, Liverpool burst out of the starting blocks at home and Fernando Torres doubled the aggregate advantage after 16 minutes at the Anfield Road end, converting Dirk Kuyt's cut-back past keeper Iker Casillas.

Before the half-hour mark it was 2-0, Steven Gerrard scoring from the spot after a Gabriel Heinze handball. Just after the interval the captain netted his second with a sensational half-volley in front of the Kop from Ryan Babel's cross on the left, and sub Andrea Dossena added the finishing touch with a low drive.

It was to be the last great European night of the Benitez era, and four days later Liverpool would put four past Manchester United at Old Trafford.



LIVERPOOL 2 MANCHESTER UNITED 0

Thursday 10 March 2016
Europa League round of 16 first leg

On a raucous Anfield evening Daniel Sturridge opened the scoring from the spot – his fifth goal (plus one assist) in his seven appearances against United in all competitions.

Roberto Firmino finished coolly at the Kop end with 17 minutes left – his third goal in as many consecutive games for Liverpool. Afterwards Jürgen Klopp praised the supporters: "I want to say thank you to everyone who was involved in the atmosphere. That was Liverpool how I knew it before I came here."

The Reds became the first English side to knock United out of European competition, Philippe Coutinho's equaliser at Old Trafford securing a 3-1 aggregate victory.

LIVERPOOL 4 BORUSSIA DORTMUND 3

Thursday 14 April 2016
Europa League quarter-final second leg

Before the game they lined the streets to hail their heroes as the clock ticked down to this showdown with Jürgen Klopp's old club. At the final whistle they shook the famous old stadium to its foundations...

Two early strikes looked to have put Dortmund through before Divock Origi pulled one back. The visitors made it three but Philippe Coutinho and Mamadou Sakho scored.

With time almost up, this is how LFCTV commentator John Bradley described it: "The Dortmund players are sensing they are almost home... [Fourth official] Serkan Ok puts up the board and tells us there will be four minutes... [Milner takes free-kick] Liverpool now want to rock Anfield even more. Daniel Sturridge... Liverpool need a moment of brilliance, a moment of inspiration... Milner, there's the cross – LOVREEENNNN! The roof has come off Anfield! It's Dejan Lovren! It is perhaps the greatest comeback that Anfield has ever seen! Amazing celebrations! Amazing scenes!"













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Neil Mellor

August is the month to get in the mix and stay there

Every player spends the whole of pre-season working to get a shirt for the first game. That is your reward. It shows you have worked hard enough, are fit enough and have impressed enough to be in the manager's plans for the season.

With Liverpool having a Champions League game against Hoffenheim following the trip to Watford you may think players that aren't selected to start at Vicarage Road will believe they'll play in Europe instead, but it's not like that. Managers make it clear that it is always one game at a time and they cannot legislate for circumstances such as injuries. Jürgen Klopp will have selected his strongest available team at Watford and then take it from there.

Whoever is selected, the big thing for Liverpool is starting well. You want to be in the mix right from the first game and that's what happened last season. The Reds won at Arsenal, drew at Tottenham, won at Chelsea and beat champions Leicester City in four of their opening five games.

That gave the squad both confidence and momentum and they lost just one of their opening 13 league matches – at Burnley – to set themselves up for a successful campaign. Starting well gives you a basis to challenge at the top and when you look at the fixture list this season the Reds must play Arsenal and Manchester City in their third and fourth Premier League games. They are big, big games that could have a huge impact on the season.

Everybody knows there will again be six teams challenging for four Champions League places and, ultimately, the Premier League title. Liverpool are one of those sides and results against our rivals will be crucial.

Of course each of those clubs has new players in their squads with the latest Anfield arrival, at the time of writing, being left-back Andy Robertson from Hull City.

Any new player wants to impress his team-mates and gain the trust of the manager. Knowing the manager believes in you by bringing you in is a huge confidence booster, but you've still got to show your qualities.

Robertson will be aware that James Milner did well at left-back last season and will have seen Alberto Moreno have a good pre-season, so he'll know he's got a battle on his hands to get into the team. Settling in at Liverpool will take time, but he's a British player with Premier League experience. For him, at the age of 23, it's about taking his opportunity when it comes along.

I must say, however, that August is a hugely uncertain time in the dressing-room with the transfer window remaining open until the end of the month. I've said before that perhaps the window should be closed on the night before the first game because it is hugely unsettling for every club. Just like supporters, players worry that their team could lose a prize asset but they also worry that a new arrival might be bought to take their place in the side. It can be a nervous wait to see what transpires.



AUGUST IS AN UNCERTAIN TIME IN THE DRESSING ROOM WITH THE TRANSFER WINDOW OPEN

There's always huge transfer speculation surrounding Liverpool – the story of this summer has been about trying to get a couple of top targets over the line and keeping Philippe Coutinho from the clutches of Barcelona – and the way those three situations unravel could yet have an absolutely massive impact, both positively or negatively, on the entire season.

Players also look at other clubs to see what they are comparatively spending in the transfer market. The Liverpool players will be well aware of what is going on elsewhere – who is strengthening in which positions and which teams have lost some key men – but ultimately their focus will be on getting the best out of themselves and each other to beat those rivals.

Believe me, they will want to challenge for the Premier League title and will desperately want to win trophies. Doing both is how Liverpool can progress in 2017/18.

Ultimately we all want Liverpool to improve on a top-four finish by winning the Premier League. Whether a serious challenge will emerge remains to be seen, but I would say another top four finish, progress in the Champions League and some silverware would constitute a successful campaign.

Winning the big trophies remains the ambition, but given the competition that Liverpool must face both domestically and in Europe there has to be a sense of realism about what can be achieved. Top four again and silverware would be okay with me.

It's Ryan Kent in action wearing this season's away kit – at which Championship club did the 20-year-old wideman spend last season on loan? **Answer on page 98**

What's changed at Anfield this season plus the club's latest work in the community





ORANGE IS THE NEW...RED!

Third kit for 2017/18 revealed thousands of miles away from Anfield to watching millions all over the globe

Liverpool FC's new third kit for the 2017/18 season was revealed to the world on the club's action-packed pre-season tour of Hong Kong.

The strip was unveiled by Philippe Coutinho, Roberto Firmino, Adam Lallana, Simon Mignolet and James Milner on day one of LFC's visit for the Premier League Asia Trophy.

Its striking orange colour scheme features a black collar and trim, with the goalie's version in green. The New Balance kit continues the design theme to mark LFC's 125th anniversary, incorporating the commemorative Liver Bird crest, and was worn for the first time against Crystal Palace in the tournament.

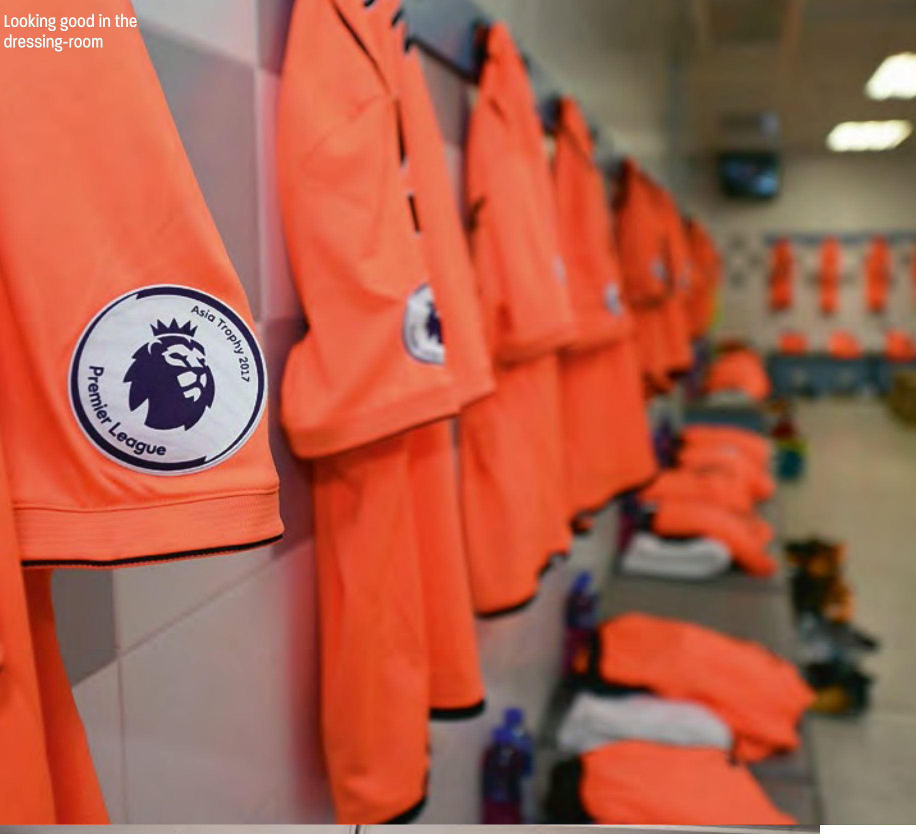
Fans can purchase the strip now by heading to liverpoolfc.com/store or by visiting any official club store.

Also in Hong Hong the club announced Falken Tyres as its Global Partner and Official Tyre partner, with first-teamers Daniel Sturridge, Mohamed Salah, Joel Matip and Nathaniel Clyne among those attending the official launch.



Five stars in first-class attire





Looking good in the dressing-room

The multi-year partnership will create unique experiences for fans and drivers alike. Billy Hogan, chief commercial officer and managing director at Liverpool FC, commented: "Falken has great synergy with the club, their focus on attitude and performance align nicely with our values of ambition and commitment.

"We are proud to welcome Falken to the LFC family as a global partner and very much look forward to working together and bringing these values to life."



The Falken Tyres launch

The team in the new kit ahead of the Palace match in Hong Kong

ANFIELD 2017/18

All you need to know about getting to the ground and making an awesome experience of it



On the club's official website there is a comprehensive guide entitled *Visiting Anfield* where fans and visitors can find information on facilities at the stadium and things to do in the city of Liverpool.

Available to download, the guide explains how LFC prides itself on being inclusive and working with all its supporters, recognising that disabled fans may need assistance to fully enjoy the Anfield experience and offering a variety of reasonable adjustments based on individual needs.

Here are a few highlights to help visitors plan their journey to Anfield...

Welcome to Anfield: LFC offers offer an array of accessible services and facilities across the stadium – including a welcoming Fan Support Team which can be easily identified by a prominent information flag. There are also stewards wearing high-visibility jackets on hand around the ground to help you make the most of your matchday experience.

Accessibility: you can download the club's accessibility guide from the official website www.liverpoolfc.com or speak to a member of staff on +44 151 264 2500 for information on accessible toilets, hearing loops, audio headsets and lifts. You can also download

the Premier League *Get in!* App, the official matchday accessibility guide; a one-stop shop for fans with accessibility needs that makes attending home and away matches easier than ever before.

Fan Zones: these are open from four hours before kick-off on a matchday. There is one on Anfield Road where you can find food, drink and live music, and another at Paisley Square which is home to live entertainment, food and soft drinks, retail offerings plus the club's official mascot Mighty Red in person on a matchday!

Food kiosks: street-food kiosks are available on a matchday and located in the Fan Zones. Anfield offers an array of meal deals, burgers, hot dogs and pies in kiosks throughout the ground – or try one of our 'Boot Room Sports Cafe' kiosk's gourmet matchday meals, located Kop-side between the Tour Centre and Ticket Office.

Local pubs: there are many around the area, with The Arkles (just next to Anfield Road) and The Sandon (on Walton Breck Road) welcoming home and away supporters.

Stadium Tours: these are available throughout the year, both on a matchday and on a non-matchday. For more information visit www.liverpoolfc.com/tours.

Retail store: with all the latest kits, LFC fashion and souvenirs, bring home a memento of your trip to Anfield from the Retail Store, located on Walton Breck Road.

Boot Room Sports Cafe: this is open seven days a week, offering freshly prepared food. On a matchday it is available only for matchday hospitality. For more information visit www.liverpoolfc.com/hospitality.

Hillsborough Memorial: the club has worked with the Hillsborough families to create a fitting location and setting within the design of the expanded Main Stand and surrounding public area.

Photo opportunities: there are various points around the stadium for fans to use, both on a matchday and non-matchday.

Ticket Office: open Mon to Sat, for times visit www.liverpoolfc.com/contactus.

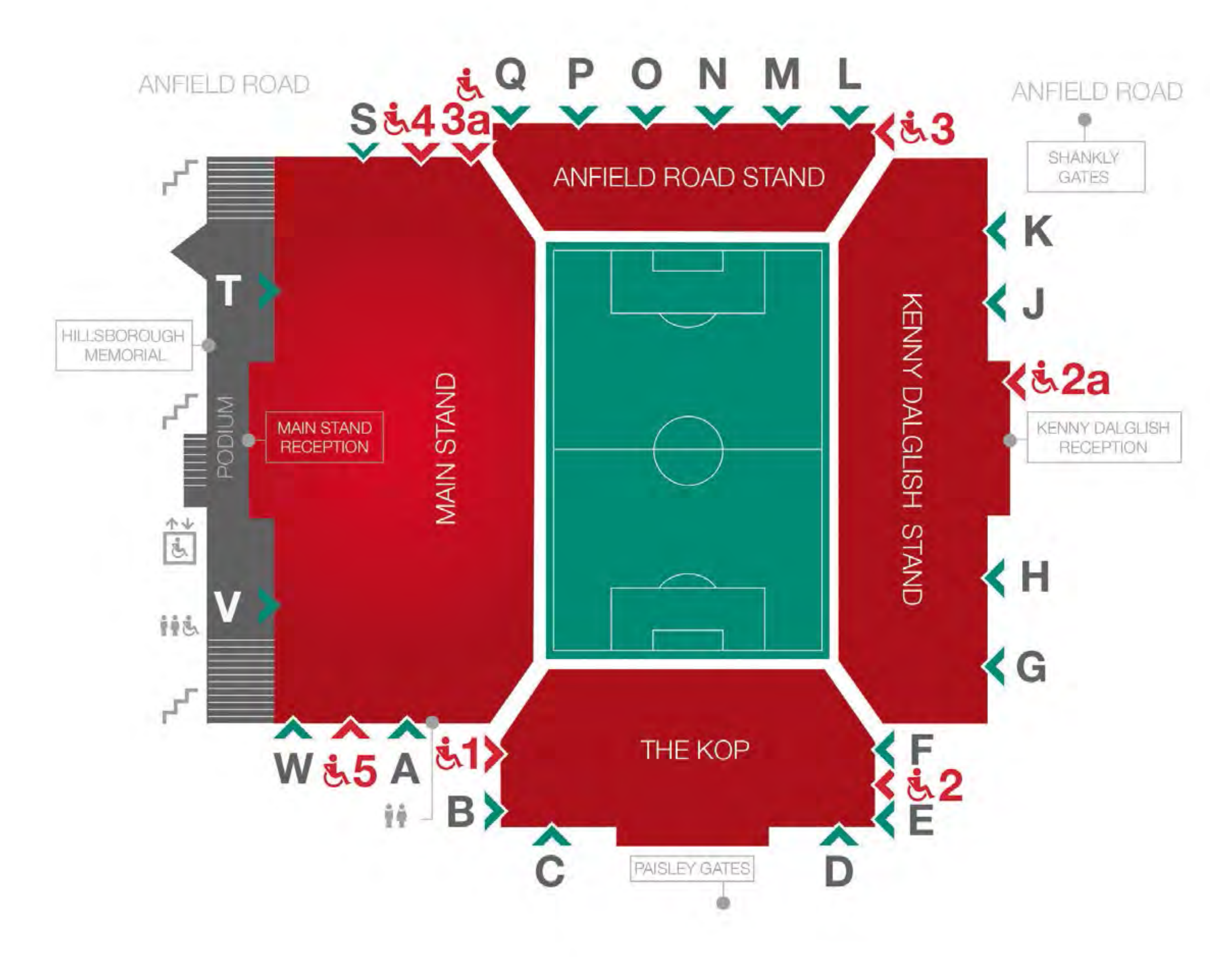
Please note that on home matchdays the Ticket Office opening times may vary depending on the kick-off time.

Toilets: located throughout the stadium on a matchday. Baby-changing and baby-feeding facilities are now available on Level 2 of the Main Stand, and in the toilets near the Boot Room Sports Cafe and The Liverpool FC Story entrances.

Cash point: there are none available in the ground; however, there is a cash point on Walton Breck Road. Supporters can pay via card throughout the stadium with contactless payment also in place at all kiosks.

Wi-fi: available in the concourse area of each stand. Fans will need to connect to 'Fan Wi-Fi' and register for the free service.

Faith Room: a multi-faith prayer room is available at Anfield, accessible from the Main Stand public realm and located next to the hospitality ticket collection booth. This is open five hours before and 30 minutes after a match.



RAINBOW REDS

Club supports Liverpool Pride 2017 with illuminated Kop and special displays

THE LFC FOUNDATION IS THE OFFICIAL CHARITY OF LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB. WE CREATE LIFE CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MERSEYSIDE AND BEYOND. FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LFCFOUNDATION



Liverpool FC showed its colours in support of this year's Liverpool Pride festival with a host of activities taking place across the club.

It was LFC's fifth year supporting Liverpool Pride, which was established in 2010 in memory of the murdered gay teenager, Michael Causer, to celebrate LGBT communities.

On Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 July the theme of International Love was promoted to celebrate LGBT lives around the world and highlight the places where it's still illegal to be LGBT.

To form part of Liverpool Pride's 'Come Out of the Shadows' initiative, Anfield's Kop joined iconic buildings across the city in being lit up each night in the colours of the rainbow flag. Liverpool FC's city-centre retail stores also featured Pride-themed window displays and store staff wore colourful clothing.

Meanwhile LFC CEO Peter Moore led club employees at a march alongside Kop Outs, an LGBT fan group, and the wider community in a celebration of the culture of the city. Reds fans had their pictures taken with special LFC and Pride-themed Instaframes throughout the march, while staff also gave away rainbow armbands.

"We are extremely passionate about equality, diversity and inclusion and are committed to its promotion with our fans, employees, players and the wider football family," said Peter. "This year we were awarded with the Premier League Equality Standard Advanced Level for our work and commitment to equality. We are the only Premier League club to hold this, which is something we are immensely proud of.

"Five years ago we were the first Premier League club to support a UK Pride march and I was delighted to be continuing this support by marching alongside my colleagues at this year's Liverpool Pride."

Happy 125th birthday to you...and to you too!

During the pre-season trip to Germany, Liverpool FC Foundation and Hertha BSC held a 125th anniversary soccer tournament for local children as the two clubs came together to celebrate their respective histories.

Three LFC legends – Gary McAllister, Vladimir Smicer and Patrik Berger – joined coaches from both clubs at Olympic Park, holding pre-match team-talks with the youngsters and offering encouragement from the sidelines. Berger said: “It’s been great helping to deliver this fantastic tournament. The children have all enjoyed themselves, it’s a brilliant way to celebrate the special milestone of both of these great clubs.”

Paddy and Gary Mac also visited the Berlin Wall Memorial to learn about the history of the area and pay their respects to those who lost their lives when the city was divided by a physical border. The pair laid a floral tribute on behalf of the club at the Window of Remembrance.



WHAT'S IN



Mens replica third shirt 17/18 (MT7324) **£50**
Kids replica third shirt 17/18 (JT7324) **£42**



Mens third shorts 17/18 (MS7326) **£25**
Kids third shorts 17/18 (JS7326) **£19**



Mens third socks 17/18 (MA7328) **£12**
Kids third socks 17/18 (JA7328) **£8**

STORE

THIRD KIT 2017/18

Brand new in Bold Citrus and inspired by the original wooden signage of the Kop!





Mens black training presentation suit 17/18 (MU209b) **£80**
Junior black training presentation suit 17/18 (JU208b) **£60**



Infant third kit 17/18 (IY7313) **£35**
Baby third kit 17/18 (BY73013) **£30**



Mens grey marl media power polo 17/18 (MT189g) **£30**
Junior grey marl media power polo 17/18 (JT188g) **£25**



Shop for all your Liverpool FC essentials in all Official Club Stores and the Official Online Store at store.liverpoolfc.com. For more details follow @LFCRetail on Twitter and Instagram.



QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p7: The manager of Liverpool's opponents Athletic Bilbao at Dublin's Aviva Stadium was Jose Angel Ziganda.
FOOTBALL p33: True – Simon Mignolet can indeed speak English, French and Dutch, plus German too!
CLUB p89: Ryan Kent spent last season on loan at Barnsley.


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